



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

16 Lessons I'm Teaching my Kids About Social Media

Twenty years ago, I would not have ever considered writing about social media – as it did not exist. Today it impacts almost everyone under the age of fifty. Even many people in their 60s and 70s are jumping on social media to keep up with their grandchildren. Facebook has 1.86 billion monthly active users. In the first quarter of this year Twitter averaged 328 monthly active users. This is a massive influence in our culture – and yet, the church has been slow to respond to it.

How is it impacting your children or grandchildren? A study in March 2017 revealed that frequent use of multiple social media platforms caused feelings of social isolation. Think about that for a moment. We are the most connected generation of all time – yet we are more isolated than ever before. Many young people have lots of “Virtual” friends, but few real friends. Research published December 10, 2016 showed that using social media is associated with depression and anxiety. Add to this that suicide in young people is up 13% since 2010. Most scholars point to social media as the causative factor for this dramatic increase.

Here's what I intend on teaching my children about social media.

Your mom and dad grew up in a simpler time. We weren't bombarded with dings and vibrations from a phone alerting us of every new Instagram or Facebook post. We had friends – real friends, who we rode bikes with – friends who were not constantly putting only their very best highlight reels out there for everyone to see. Social media is amazing in that you can instantly be connected to hundreds or thousands of people. You have information at the tips of your fingers. However, these conveniences can be intensely distracting and can get in the way of our duty to glorify God. Allow me to share several lessons I hope you will learn regarding social media.

Lesson One: Be careful—social media is addicting. Make no doubt about it, social media has been engineered to be as habit forming as crack cocaine. If you are going to use it then you need to have discipline and war against spending endless hours surfing your friends' posts. *“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”* (1 Pet. 2:11).

Lesson Two: Constantly ask yourself: Is this the best use of my time? You have responsibilities. As a servant for Christ you have additional responsibilities. Set limits and have some time you turn it completely off. James wrote *“whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away”* (Jas. 4:14).

Lesson Three: Walk in the Spirit not the flesh! Be careful as social media feeds the flesh. It enlivens your emotions and carnal nature. It is easy to step into social media and get swept away by the flesh. Paul warned, *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit”*

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For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.



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against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish” (Gal. 5:16-17).

Lesson Four: Do not miss out on the joy of face-to-face contact. As humans we read body language. It tells us a great deal about the tone and feelings behind a particular conversation. You can't get that with social media.

“Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face-to-face, that our joy may be full” (2 Jn. 1:12).

Lesson Five: Look people in the eyes when they are with you. This one is a major pet peeve of your mom. When you look at your phone in the presence of others you are telling those around you: “You are not really all that important to me.” Can you imagine Jesus delivering His sermon on the Mount, while constantly checking His phone?

Lesson Six: Use social media to encourage—not discourage. Let's be honest: Christians get enough discouragement. If you use social media please use it to encourage – be a Barnabas! “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,” (Heb. 10:24).

Lesson Seven: They aren't real friends. There is a whole lot more to friendship than clicking “confirm” on Facebook. Do not measure your self-worth by the number of Facebook friends you have or the number of retweets you get. “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13). The right kind of friend will make you want to be a better Christian! Real friends invest time and energy into their relationship. Real friends listen. Real friends share common interests. Real friends tell the truth. Real friends protect us. Real friends overlook our faults. Real friends help bear our burdens. Real friends are loyal. “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” (Pr. 27:17).

Lesson Eight: Avoid bragging. In “real life” we don't routinely unpack our awards and trophies for friends, neighbors, and coworkers to see. But with social media everything becomes a photo op, an opportunity to brag,

and everything is used to promote your image. This bragging about what you've done, what you've eaten, trips you've taken gets old to those around you. Solomon wrote, “Let another man praise you and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips” (Pr. 27:2). Jesus warned, “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Mt. 6:1). If every one of your posts centers around you then you probably have a problem with bragging. Make sure your posts are humble in spirit (Jas. 4:10).

Lesson Nine: Watch out for envy and discontent. Have you noticed that everybody else's life looks better than yours on social media? This is because individuals normally don't share the mundane or bad parts of their lives. As a result, it is easy for someone to think that they have a much better life. Remember, you are only seeing part of the story. This “virtual” reality is unhealthy. It often causes you to start putting unrealistic expectations on your own spouse, children, and friends. Learn to be content like Paul in whatever state you find yourself (Phil. 4:11-13). Remember, covetousness is defined in Col. 3:5 as idolatry.

Lesson Ten: Don't allow Facebook/Twitter/Instagram to stifle prayer. You need to set aside down time to simply: “Be still and know that He is God...” (Ps. 46:10). Social media eats up time – time that you could be spent strengthening your relationship with God. In Jas. 4:8 we read, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”

Lesson Eleven: Conduct yourself on social media like you would in person. Lots of people say things on social media they would never say in person, simply because they are on a screen they feel secure and hidden. It matters what your fingers type and one day you will be held accountable for every post and every text. There are Christians who post things they would never say out loud in public – but it is being read by hundreds if not thousands. You are a representation of the bride of Christ! You are supposed to be His servant. Please go back and read Jas.

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

- Nov. 5 Ezekiel 14-15; 1 Cor. 14-15
- Nov. 6 Ezek. 16-17; 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 1
- Nov. 7 Ezekiel 18-19; 2 Cor. 2-3
- Nov. 8 Ezekiel 20-21; 2 Cor. 4-5
- Nov. 9 Ezekiel 22-23; 2 Cor. 6-7
- Nov. 10 Ezekiel 24-25; 2 Cor. 8-9
- Nov. 11 Ezekiel 26-27; 2 Cor. 10-11
- Nov. 12 Ezekiel 28-29; 2 Cor. 12-13

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **51 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.
- ◆ **Ladies' Day was a great success!** Thank you to all the ladies that worked so hard to make it a great day. Thanks especially to Tammy Rudloff for planning and coordinating this year, and to Lasha Dennis for presenting the lessons. **There were 62 in attendance, representing 16 different congregations.**

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 25-28—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback
- ◆ **Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow**
- ◆ Nov. 4-5—Gospel Radio Network Lectureship @ Mt. Vernon (online at TGRN.org). *"The Gospel Is For All"*
- ◆ Nov. 12-15—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Foy Forehand
- ◆ Nov. 12-15—Schertz Lectures. *"Studies in the Psalms"*

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3, Mt. 5:13-16.

Lesson Twelve: Don't allow Facebook to blind you to false beauty. Everyone looks good on Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram. Of course, what you don't see are the 20-30 images it took them just to get that perfect one. This false beauty may make you think you are beautiful and may encourage you to believe beauty is found in the outward appearance. *"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'"* (1 Sam. 16:7).

Lesson Thirteen: Be careful about what you allow into your mind. According to Jesus, the greatest command is: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment"* (Mt. 22:37-38). Remember every time you click you are opening up a window that will influence your mind.

Lesson Fourteen: Be careful little eyes what you see. I've talked to you before about the seriousness of pornography and sexting. Do not send/receive images that are not glorifying to God. Ever. Period. Do not give out personal information to those you do not know.

Lesson Fifteen: Use social media to reach the lost. We all know the "Great Commission" tells us to "go" (Mt. 28:19-20). With social media you have the ability to take the saving message of Jesus Christ to places on this planet you could never physically go to. Do not take that responsibility lightly. View your social media accounts as tools to reach the lost.

Lesson Sixteen: Be careful what you idolize. For many, there is a temptation to idolize social media. Remember God is a jealous God. He will not put up with idolatry. As God was handing down the Ten Commandments He warned the Israelites, *"You shall have no other gods before Me"* (Ex. 20:3). Paul further admonished, *"Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry"* (1 Cor. 10:14).

I hope these sixteen lessons will come in handy as you navigate the waters of social media, and I pray you will use it in such a way that it strengthens your relationship with Him.

Love, Dad

Brad Harrub, Ph.D. (focuspress.org)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

November Birthdays: Susan Bridges (1), Canyon Edwards (6), Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Christy Edwards (24), Marcia Turnbull (24), Christine Rayon (30).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), Jack & Judie Turner (18).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 22, 2017	Oct. 29, 2017
Bible Class	51	43
AM Worship	62	66
PM Worship	48	35
Wednesday PM	40	36
Contribution	\$2,033	\$1,821

	This Week: 11/5/17	Next Week: 11/12/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	November 2017 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family December 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Dennis Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby	
Greeters	Maninger Family	Randy & Laura Huckaby		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Don Smith		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Tom Wilcox*, Larry Petty Allen Griffith, Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Mike Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Rafe Smith	James Thomas		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 8 Rafe Smith	November 15 Don Smith	November 22 Joe Dennis	November 29 Fifth Wednesday

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of November 5, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 8:18**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 4:3**

Grace & Faith

- I. **Faith.**
 - A. In the Bible, "faith" is most often used subjectively, that is, with reference to an individual's personal convictions.
 - B. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Heb. 11:6).
 1. However, not just any faith is pleasing to God.
 2. A faith that does not move one to obey God is not a saving faith.
 - C. Faith is sometimes used in an objective way in Scripture – "the faith".
- II. **Grace.**
 - A. The Greek word χάρις, often translated "grace", literally means favor.
 - B. More often than not, the word χάρις is translated with the English word "grace", and is used regarding people of whom God has a favorable view.
 - C. When used this way, there is an added sense that the favor is unmerited.
- III. **Grace and Faith.**
 - A. Many address grace as if it existed alone – but it is part of the system referred to as "the faith".
 - B. In Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul is not proclaiming salvation by grace only – that would be inconsistent with what he taught elsewhere. What is revealed is a *pattern* for receiving God's blessings.
 1. God offers a blessing, a divine gift, not deserved by the one to whom the blessing is being offered;
 2. As a part of His grace, God instructs people concerning what they must do to receive the gift;
 3. As a result of their trust (faith) in the promises of God, people act upon the instructions given;
 4. God bestows the promised blessing after the prescribed conditions have been met.
- IV. **Biblical Illustrations of the Pattern.**
 - A. The Biblical account of the flood (Gen. 6).
 - B. Joshua and the Walls of Jericho (Joshua 6).
 - C. Moses and the Bronze Serpent (Num. 21).
 - D. Christians Today (Titus 2:11-12).
 - E. A faith that pleases God assumes obedience – it should also be understood that anytime faith leads to a blessing from God, it also assumes grace.

Closing Words – 2 Timothy 4:14-22

- I. **Beware of False Teachers (14-15).**
 - A. Paul mentioned *Alexander the coppersmith* – who had done him great harm.
 - B. Alexander greatly resisted Paul's words – contradicting the inspired apostle.
 - C. "May the Lord repay him according to his work" – Paul left the future punishment of Alexander in the Lord's hands. (That does not mean Christians should avoid taking action against such false teachers.)
 - D. Because of the extreme danger of such false teachers to the Lord's church, Paul warned Timothy, and us, to beware of Alexander (and those like him).
- II. **At Paul's First Defense, Only the Lord Stood with Him (16-18).**
 - A. At Paul's first defense, no man stood with him, but all forsook him.
 1. The word translated "defense" means a legal defense.
 2. "Stood with me" means to be alongside of, to stand by, to support – as a witness or lawyer standing up in court on a prisoner's behalf.
 3. We see a picture of Paul standing by himself in a Roman court of law with no one to defend or support him – not even his best friends!
 4. Yet, he asked that this not be charged against them!
 - B. But, the Lord did not desert him!
 1. The Lord stood beside Paul and strengthened him.
 2. The Lord did that so the Gospel message might be fully preached through Paul, including spreading it to the Gentiles.
 3. Paul said that the Lord delivered him out of the mouth of the lion.
 - a. He was confident that the Lord would deliver him from every evil work.
 4. He knew that God would "preserve" him for His heavenly Kingdom.
- III. **Closing Greetings (19-22).**
 - A. Greetings to the faithful husband and wife team Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila.
 - B. Greetings to the household of Onesiphorus.
 - C. Paul mentioned Erastus who stayed in Corinth.
 - D. Paul said that he had left Trophimus in Miletus sick.
 - E. Paul urged Timothy to come to him in Rome before winter.
 - F. Paul sent greetings to Timothy from some of the brethren in Rome.
 - G. Paul made a wonderful request for Timothy – that the Lord Jesus Christ be with his spirit.
 - H. Paul closed this epistle by wishing, "Grace be with you".