



Wise Use of Technology

COTR Sunday school

Epiphany, 2020

The Paradox of Friends

We have more “friends” today than ever before. But, yet, loneliness has sky-rocketed.

The iGen generation is content with staying at home because there is no need to go out. Their “social” lives can be “fulfilled” through their phones.

This is true because we are created in the image of a relational God and we are embodied creatures.

The Effects on Envy and Boasting

Galatians 5:19-20 “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, **jealousy**, fits of anger, **rivalries**, dissensions, divisions, **envy**, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.”

- Philosopher Aaron Ben Ze-ev has shown that the degree of envy is tied to proximity.
 - 15% pay raise when looking around you (embodied)
 - Unlimited with social media (ethereal)

Why is Envy so powerful on SM?

- Not only is your proximity closer to people outside of your social sphere of society, but what image is being placed on the social media platform?
 - Average number of facebook friends 338 in 2019.
- So, not only is your envy increasing with people outside of your bubble, but they are posting the absolute best of their lives.
- Personal, Professional, Schools, Church

What About Boasting?

- Think about how much of social media is designed to encourage you to boast.
 - “Likes” and “Loves”
 - Dislikes—eliciting a emotional reaction
 - So, much (not all) of what we post is for the purpose of getting an emotional reaction! Is that wrong?
- And, this is exacerbated too by the amount of people that can see and interact with a post.
 - The greater number “friends” the greater the SM pull to boast.

What About Rivalries and Divisions?

- The depersonalized nature of digital interaction disarms our self-control and love for the other person.
- Remember Begbie's co-national choirs. Or, working together, playing together.
- Matthew 18 assumes personal interaction.
- For the church: within the congregation, within the denomination, within the catholic church.

The Fruit of the Spirit

- Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, **self-control**.
- How do we live as empowered by the Holy Spirit on our phones and with our social media platforms?
 - Simply being aware of the problem.
 - Repenting of “fleshly” behavior.
 - Praying for wisdom and discipline to use technology in a healthy way.
 - Have conversations within the family about good social media practices
 - Have conversations within the church about good practices.
 - Cull your list of friends?
 - Intentionally focus on your sphere of life?