

HEADING OFF INTERNET DANGERS

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Quick View

The following outline simply sets forth some of the dangers presented in an online world and some suggestions for protecting yourself in a disaster-prone area.

The Over-Riding Question: Am I Ordering My Life to the Glory of God?

1. I Corinthians 10:31 states everything a believer does should be motivated by bringing glory to God.
2. This means that every choice to click and every extended look at every web-page needs to be filtered by whether or not that choice will display the unique excellence of the God to whom I belong.

The Time Spent Must Glorify God

1. Time pitfalls online
2. Time pruners

The Content Viewed Must Glorify God

1. Approach every session anticipating a fight with images.
 - a. Prepare to fight against materialistic images.
 - b. Prepare to fight against sensual images.
2. Develop strong accountability relationships.
 - a. Interpersonally
 - b. Personally

Appendix: Helping Those Addicted to Unhealthy Internet Habits

1. Realize that this is a symptom of general selfishness. Encourage the one being helped to evaluate other areas that display selfish desires.
2. Offer to be an accountability partner and do not fail to be persistent.
3. Encourage those addicted to take an extended period of time away from the temptation. Provide suggestions for alternative measures to gain needed information.
4. Challenge them with God's Word. Use specific statements to point out that they are wasting their life pursuing non-consequential (for eternity) pleasures. Note some of the passages stated above.

LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE: INFLUENCE THAT REFLECTS THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Equipping committed, courageous, and compassionate disciple-makers for Jesus Christ

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HEADING OFF INTERNET DANGERS

Today's academic cultural climate demands extensive use of the internet for personal, professional, and scholastic pursuits. Information on anything is available at anytime. Hardly a day goes by without some form of being "connected." Because of the automatic integration into life, jumping online is almost like jumping into the car – no one even thinks about it. But, like driving a vehicle, navigating the cyber world should be approached with an understanding of dangers and the forethought of how to avoid them. The following outline simply sets forth some of the dangers presented in an online world and some suggestions for protecting yourself in a disaster-prone area.

The Over-Riding Question: Am I Ordering My Life to the Glory of God?

1. I Corinthians 10:31 states everything a believer does should be motivated by bringing glory to God.
2. This means that every choice to click and every extended look at every web-page needs to be filtered by whether or not that choice will display the unique excellence of the God to whom I belong.

The Time Spent Must Glorify God

1. Time pitfalls online
 - a. Spending time browsing for trivial information that needs to be spent carrying out responsibilities and accomplishing work of eternal value.
 - b. Spending time in virtual socialization about matters of little to no consequence instead of intentionally being a disciple-maker.
 - c. Spending time shopping/looking through all the varieties and options in place of dealing with heart issues.
2. Time pruners
 - a. Develop a "favorites" folder that contains helpful, necessary websites (banking, travel resources, academic journals, library, sermonaudio, dictionaries, Bible resources, etc.).
 - b. E-mail an accountability partner when you get on and when you get off.
 - c. Keep a running list throughout the day of specific actions you need to accomplish online and stick to that list during your sessions.
 - d. Make a commitment to Christ to obediently "make the most of every opportunity" (Eph. 5:16).

The Content Viewed Must Glorify God

1. Approach every session anticipating a fight with images.
 - a. Prepare to fight against sensual images.
 - 1) Make a commitment to “set no wicked thing before [your] eyes” (Ps. 101:3).
 - 2) Ask God to “incline not [your] heart to any evil thing” (Ps. 141:4).
 - 3) Apply the Matthew 5:28 principle to every picture: Looking with lust is sin against Christ.
 - b. Prepare to fight against materialistic images.
 - 1) Guard against promises of instant wealth.
 - 2) Take some time when making purchases.
 - a) Is the item a need?
 - b) Will the purchase cause indebtedness?
 - c) Will the item be used profitably?
 - 3) Be aware of the advertising industry’s effectiveness.
 - a) They try to make life look worthless without their product.
 - b) They attempt to promise fulfillment.
 - c) They amplify latent desires into desperate needs.
2. Develop strong accountability relationships.
 - a. Personally
 - 1) Before each session commit to view only those things that glorify God.
 - 2) Evaluate what you looked at every time you complete a session.
 - b. Interpersonally
 - 2) Ask someone you respect to be an internet accountability partner.
 - 3) Develop a list of specific questions that an accountability partner will ask you.

Appendix: Helping Those Addicted to Unhealthy Internet Habits

1. Realize that this is a symptom of general selfishness. Encourage the one being helped to evaluate other areas that display selfish desires.
2. Offer to be an accountability partner and do not fail to be persistent.
3. Encourage those addicted to take an extended period of time away from the temptation. Provide suggestions for alternative measures to gain needed information.

4. Challenge them with God's Word. Use specific statements to point out that they are wasting their life pursuing non-consequential (for eternity) pleasures. Note some of the passages stated above.

Objectives for "Heading Off Internet Dangers"

Knowledge Objectives: By the end of this study you should be able to

1. Understand the dangers presented in the online world
2. Realize that time spent on the internet must be used to glorify God
3. Know how to effectively deal with the content encountered on the internet

Application Objectives: By the end of this study you should be responding by

1. Ordering your internet life to the glory of God
2. Using your time wisely on the internet
3. Setting up controls when you do view the internet
4. Helping those who struggle with unhealthy internet habits