

Christlike Thinking in This World

Forming a Christian Worldview on Social Media

Adult Training Seminar Session 7 – Dan Arcilla 11/03/19

The question: How do we arrive at a Christian worldview regarding social media?

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” 1 Cor 10:5

God’s Word is the “polarized lens” through which we view our culture, including social media.

The nine steps to forming Biblical worldview (per K. Schoonhoven)

1. **Humble Yourself.** (Acts 17:11-12, Ezra 7:10)

Why is it important to have humility here?

2. **Search the Scriptures.**

- a. The where, what, who, and why of social media: What does the culture, church, and Bible say about it?
- b. Breaking down social media into its essential elements:
 - i. *It magnifies the power of your **eyes** (Matthew 5:29-30).*
 - ii. *It magnifies the power of your **ears** (Matt 7:26-27).*
 - iii. *It magnifies the power of your **tongue** (Matt 12:37, Lk 12:3-4).*
- c. Other aspects of social media
 - i. *It affects your **privacy**.*
 - ii. *It can affect your **productivity**.*
 - iii. *It can affect your **physical health**.*
 - iv. *It can affect your **personal relationships**.*
- d. Are there some other essential elements of social media that should be analyzed Biblically?

3. **Identify applicable areas of Biblical & theological foundations.**

- a. **Question:** Are there clear commands which mandate or prohibit certain the essential building blocks of social media?
- b. **Theology of technology**
 - i. Tech is God-given and good, but it is often used sinfully (Gen 2:10-15, Gen 6:14-18, Gen 11:1-4)

- ii. Technology takes on a sinful agenda when driven by sinful men.

c. Christians and Technology

- i. However, communication tech specifically has often been redeemed, modified, and even driven by Christianity (Examples: Roman roads, papyrus, the codex, printing press, projection technologies, apps, blogs, and social media, etc.)

4. Seek counsel (Prov 4:7, 11:14, 19:8 -- actually the entire book :-)

5. Record reasons and discuss with others.

- a. What can you conclude in your own convictions?
- b. Review verses on vision, hearing and speech
- c. Discuss, and record some of your findings:

6. Get true facts vs propaganda.

Should Christians subscribe to the same lines of reasoning that the secular world has towards social media?

7. Hold to your convictions with humility.

8. Pray throughout the process.

9. Apply what you learn to your life.

If you decide to use social media, realize the benefits and the dangers

a. Some Benefits

- i. Proclaiming the Gospel (Philippians 1:16-18, Rom 1:16)
- ii. Enhanced Christian community (James 5:16, Gal 6:2, Acts 2:41-47)
- iii. Others?

b. Some Dangers

- i. Time wasting (Eph 5:16, 1 Tim 4:7)
- ii. Devotional life (Lk 10:38-42)
- iii. Idolatry (1 John 2:14-16)
- iv. Love life (Matt 5:28, 1 Cor 6:18, 1 Thess 4:3)
- v. Rest (Mark 1:35, 6:31)
- vi. Christian community (Rom 14:19)
- vii. Academics (2 Tim 2:15, Ezra 7:10)
- viii. Character (Timothy and Titus)
- ix. Busy body (2 Thess 3:11, 1 Tim 5:13)
- x. Other dangers