



Culture Wars: ***Social Media***



PREVIEW

Let me start by saying that the point of this devotional is not to have you immediately cancel your social media accounts. It is not my job to convict you - the goal of this lesson is to challenge your thinking. The point of this lesson is for you to recognize different areas of our culture and shed light on how much power and influence these areas have over you.

PRAISE

Do you remember when you were not old enough to have a cell phone? When you had to knock on your friend's door to see if they could hang out? When you spent more time outside instead of a screen?

PARABLE

Teenage culture is always changing. Whether it's the coolest trends, the newest update, or the best app, it never stays the same. If you ask any teenager what the best invention within the last century is, most of their responses would be, "The internet".

In Romans 12:2 it says "Do not conform to the patterns of this world ...". Yet we change our looks, our values, and our friends to be accepted on social media. Here are a couple different areas we are going to break down and analyze to see how we can be better followers of Jesus within our social media:

PRESENT

Who Am I Following?

This is a question everyone in this rom should be asking themselves every day. Who are we following? Do we follow people/accounts that make us stumble, or do we follow people that help us remind us to follow Jesus? Are we able to confidently share our "explore" or "recommended" page? We call social media celebrities "influencers", but our main influencer should be Jesus.

See, we have control over what we choose or chose no to follow. We have a choice to choose sin, or success. As cliché as it sounds, Jesus should be who we follow. Read John 8:12. Jesus says follow Him and He will lead us away from darkness and give us the light of life. So I ask the question: Do you need to change who you follow to better follow Jesus?

What Am I Posting?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. This passage talks about us as disciples being extensions of Christ. When you go to a church and meet other students and youth leaders or the Pastor, they become the example of what a follower of Christ is supposed to be like. We we declare ourselves a follower, we become that same example to our friends and family who do not know Jesus. Our example is more than how we act at church. It extends to every moment of every day, including our social media.

Our posts are representatives of us. When we gain a new follower, most of the time you look at their feed to see who they are. What does your feed say about you? Do your followers on social media know you love Jesus? (Ouch) As followers of Jesus, we have influence. We need to be careful that we do not throw away that influence for a temporary "like" on social media. We need to guard that influence. What you post could be an opportunity for someone to know Christ. If harnessed properly, you can use social media influence to impact someone's life.

PRACTICE

As we conclude today, let's ask ourself one last question: Why am I on social media? Obviously we know the benefits to social media: saving memories, keeping in touch with friends, or learning new skills. On the flip side, there's a lot of junk too. Society tells us that in order to be cool or popular we need to be in the on the latest trends. Whether that's owning the newest clothes or having the coolest apps, all of it is temporary. Fads so not last.

Often times we build ourselves and our identities based on these temporary fads. We look for approval and affirmation in them but we are left drained and emptied. There is only one thing that is going to satisfy and fill the void—it's Jesus. Are you tired of trying to earn the approval of people? Our foundation should be in Christ, and Christ alone. Social media creates comparison, but God reminds you of who you are in Him. Having social media is not a bad or a sin but is it the loudest voice in your head? Or is God the one who guides you?

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for the reminder today that we are more than the number of likes on our social media accounts. You have called us, you have chosen us, we are who you say we are. I am asking you today to give us the strength to shut out the noise of social media when it tries to get us to change who we are. Help us establish our foundation in you and in you alone. Help us to use the tool of social media to further your Kingdom and your Gospel. Let us be lights set on a hill in person and online. In Jesus Name, Amen.

PLUS

If time allows, spend some time talking about some fads that have come and gone with time. Have a discussion about how the things of God are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Culture may change, but God never will.