

There is Hope Radio
6-15-25 Transcript
Social Media Epidemic
PreacherRichD

All advice and counsel is given for informational purposes only. The following broadcast is sponsored by Standing in the Gap. Our focus is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. Check us out on the web at standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. Your radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

The title of today's broadcast is The Social Media Epidemic. I will confess I'm passionate about this topic so I need to give a disclaimer right off the bat. I have only around 12 minutes to cover this topic so I'll get right to the topic. I have an absolute disdain for what is taking place in our communities, our culture because of the social media epidemic. I have little respect for those who willfully participate in this epidemic, spreading the virus. But at the same time, I believe each of us can do things to help prevent the social media epidemic spreading across America. Well, it may be too late to stop it from spreading but maybe lessen the spread.

So what do I mean by the social media epidemic? The social media epidemic is the using of social media in the spreading of lies, deception, half-truths, exaggerations, innuendos, insinuations, hearsay, gossip, hoaxes, scams, fake news by all political extremes. I want to say the last one again. If you think that whatever political leaning you have is exempt from fake news, you're either naive, deceived, or intentionally lying.

Another form of the social media epidemic is the breeding of excessive amounts of ridiculous and ungodly drama, hatred, bitterness, resentment, poisonous words, destroying of an innocent person's character.

One more form of the social media epidemic is the mindset of the end justifies the means. The idea that anything goes if it can help accomplish my cause.

Sadly, the social media epidemic has taken over the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas and multitudes of communities throughout America and the world. Most likely almost every person listening to this broadcast has caught some form of the social media bug, knowingly or unknowingly.

Naive, foolish, deceptive would be phrases that describe many who participate in social media. What do I mean by that statement? Sadly, many people believe just about everything they read on social media and then spread online everything imaginable without verifying what they're posting is true. For some, the mindset is, if my friends shared it, it must be true. Well, I have some bad news for you. Your friend most likely never verified if what they're sharing is true. They just trusted that if their friend shared something, then it must be true. What is crazy is if a person posts something that is not true, it has been proven to be a hoax or a scam, many will either try to still defend the falsehood and keep the post online. Sadly, for many individuals, even if they learn what they post is false, will keep the post online instead of deleting it. Let that sink in. Think about that. They know what they posted is not true, but they keep their post online. Many will not read the

comments stating the meme, article, etc. is false, and they will just start sharing the false information as if it must be true.

Here is for me some really sad information. If you call yourself a Christian, it should make you sad because it certainly makes the Godhead sad. It makes God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit sad. In fact, some of what is taking place by Christians is grieving the Holy Spirit. Let that sink in. There are those who call themselves Christians who have caught the social media bug. They are Christians that believe just about everything they read on social media as long as it is posted by someone that calls themselves a Christian. Some fully participate in the ungodly drama, or the root of some of the drama, joining with the gossip rumors and the mindset that the end justifies the means.

Listen to me. If you claim to be a Christian, and you are sharing deceptive information, or sharing memes and other things that are mean and hateful, directly attacking specific individuals for the purpose to cause them harm or hatred, you are violating the ninth commandment that states you should not bear false witness against a neighbor, and you are violating the second commandment that says you should not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. You are taking the name of the Lord your God in vain when you proclaim to be a Christian, but are manifesting the character traits of Satan.

So with all these negative comments about the social media epidemic, is there a cure for the epidemic? I would say no, there is no complete cure, but we can help limit the spread of the epidemic.

Before we look at some steps to take to limit the spread of the social media epidemic, let's look at what the Bible has to say about the words we speak.

Proverbs 10 11

The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain. The words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

Proverbs 11 12

It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor. A sensible person keeps quiet.

Proverbs 15 28

The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Proverbs 18 8

The words of gossipers are as wounds, and they go down deep into the innermost parts of the belly. Proverbs 26 20 Without wood, a fire goes out. Without a gossip, a quarrel dies down.

2 Timothy 2 16

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

Ephesians 4 29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it might benefit those who listen.

Matthew 12 28

I tell you, in the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak.

Colossians 4 6

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

We gave you a long list of Bible verses. By the way, you can get the transcript of this radio broadcast to be able to look up these Bible verses yourself and to listen to the podcast. Just go to creatingfutures.org/thereishope. That's creatingfutures.org/thereishope.

Here's some steps to take to not be overtaken by and not to be a host spreading the social media epidemic.

A. Do not be gullible. Just because someone you know has posted does not mean it is true or accurate. Just because someone of your political leaning shares something does not mean it's true. So, like I say, A. Do not be gullible to disbelieve that whoever shares it must be true.

B. Verify, verify, verify. Before you post something, verify it. If it seems like it may not be true, it probably is not true. If it seems extreme, it's because it's not true. It only takes one to two minutes to verify if something is a hoax. It does not take much to determine if something is a scam. Again, it's easy to check it out.

C. Look at the words and character of the person who is posting something before you share it. If the words they speak are poisonous, hateful, mean-spirited, derogatory, ungodly, there most likely is some falsehood in what they are saying. And even if what they share is true, why would you share something that is hateful and mean-spirited?

D. If you find out what you have shared is a hoax, a scam, is deceptive, immediately remove your post so it does not get shared by others.

E. Ask yourself why you are sharing something. What are your motives? If your motives are not sincere, your heart does not line up with the heart of God, that should be a red flag to not share.

F. Be determined to be a truth teller, not a spreader of unhealthy or ungodly words or rumors and gossip.

G. If you post something, it is much better to address words, actions, behavior, than shooting the messenger because you don't like the message.

H. Offer solutions, not just speak about problems.

Now I want to make a clarification. I want to clarify something because some listeners would jump to the conclusion about what I am saying. So the question is, what am I not saying?

A. I am not saying that we should only post ear-tickling, people-pleasing posts. Far from it. I think it is clear I am a very direct person and I certainly post very direct posts, but I do not attack persons.

B. I am not saying we should never call someone out. If someone is manifesting totally ungodly character, you may feel led to confront them. Just be aware such people become very vicious and will come after you instead of your message.

C. I am not saying that I have never spread the social media epidemic. I certainly have. I have gotten the bug at various times, more times than I like. Thus, I am much more cautious of what I post or if I should post. Honestly, I post much less than what I want to post. Some may not believe it, but it is true.

I need to get to prayer like I do in every broadcast, but I want to take a moment to address the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. Much of what takes place at many of the Fairfield Bay Facebook groups is shameful. I can tell you by experience, much of what is posted is opinions and not based upon facts, even though there are those that claim they are posting facts. There are those saying things about individuals that are blatantly false. They're either blatantly lying or have false information. They're actually just spreading gossip or rumors. They should be verified before they post. There are multitudes of posting about individuals claiming to know the hearts and motives of others. It should be clear who has biases, prejudices, and agendas. To think all they post must be totally true is to be extremely naive. Realize there is much bullying that goes on the various Facebook groups, and thus there are many that will not challenge false statements because of fear of reprisal. It certainly would be unwise to make major decisions based upon what you read and fear of Fairfield Bay Facebook groups or other groups.

Well, we've talked about a lot of the negativity, and certainly there's the positive side of things is that you can post positive information. You can post principles that help people to change their life. You can post principles that help people to be better individuals. So there's a lot of good things that can happen with Facebook as a way to connect with friends, all those different things, but we all should not want to be part of this social media epidemic.

Let us pray. Lord,
I would pray for each one of us.

I pray for every listener. I pray for myself, the Lord God, that we wouldn't be guilty of spreading the social media epidemic. We post that, Lord, that we would be people that would reflect your character if we call Jesus our Lord and Savior.

So Lord, I would pray for those specifically who would call themselves Christians, but their actions, behavior, their words, their statements, all that they do on social media appears to be different than somebody that truly loves Christ. I pray you bring conviction upon them, Lord God. They would check their hearts and the things that they say and do, and Lord, I pray for all of us that we would be cautious what we read and Lord that we wouldn't make the error of believing that just because a friend posts something that it must be true.

And Lord, I would pray, Father God, that we would verify, verify, verify before we post things that we would not be the spreaders of hoaxes. We wouldn't be the spreaders of

scams, that Lords, we wouldn't be the spreaders of hate and deception. And so, Lord, I pray that we use social media for good purposes, Lord, to share facts that, Lord, yes, we we will challenge at times.

Yes, Lord, we may we may challenge with some things that individuals say. We may even take stands on certain issues, knowing that others may disagree with us, but help us to do it in a loving way, a kind way, in the right kind of heart, the right kind of spirit. And Lord God, that we want to attack persons, but we would attack the message, not the messenger.

And we pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Well, we're only going to be on KFFB for the end of this month, and then we're going off the air, KFFB, unless suddenly we have some donors that jump in and keep us in the air, but we will continue doing podcasts. And so we will, before we go off the air, we'll be giving you links to where you can get the podcast. You can always listen to previous shows by going to creatingfutures.org forward slash there is hope. That's creatingfutures.org forward slash there is hope. You can listen to podcasts by going to Apple Podcasts, going to iHeart, going to Spotify, going to Podbean, and then some of our podcasts are also on YouTube. You can find all the information by going to creatingfutures.org/thereishope. That's creatingfutures.org/thereishope.

You also can give feedback. If you go to the webpage, you can get feedback of your perspective and what we share on the topics that we cover. You always can get feedback. We'd love to hear from you to fill out our survey about There is Hope Radio. I'd encourage you to go to creatingfutures.org/thereishope.

Well, thank you for listening.

You've been listening to There is Hope Radio, an outreach of Standing in the Gap. The focus of Standing in the Gap is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. To learn more about Standing in the Gap, to obtain a transcript of today's message and other resources, go to standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. And click on There is Hope Radio.