

## A Word to the Wise

*“When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge. (Prov. 21:11) Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. (Prov. 9.9)*

With the arrival of this \_\_\_\_\_ age, many dangers are present. Simply \_\_\_\_\_ about the impending danger is not sufficient. We must have some Biblical principle to \_\_\_\_\_ us. If we fail to embrace Biblical principles, we will *lean to our own understanding*. (Prov. 3.5). Ultimately, we will submit to the frailties of our own \_\_\_\_\_ (Jer. 17.9) or the pressures of \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 2.15-17). Therefore, we MUST \_\_\_\_\_ our decisions in Biblical, timeless truth. It is the ONLY way to have hope in this life (I Tim. 4.8,16).

How should we combat these perils and dangers that hunt the simple?

\* \_\_\_\_\_ Usage— Regarding much of social media for youth (and many adults), I’d agree. Yet, with the age we are in, access to the internet is not going to decrease but \_\_\_\_\_. Abandoning any use is not only difficult, but it is shortsighted. Children are going to become adults, and thereby they will make their own decisions. \_\_\_\_\_ would dictate that we teach some Biblical principle in this area.

\* \_\_\_\_\_/Accountable/\_\_\_\_\_ Usage— Parents are to train and teach. You would not let your child handle a hunting rifle without some training or drive a vehicle without training. This is the same means by which we must address what will be a present danger all their life. Below are some principles to consider:

- 1) **The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_** (7.9) - Immaturity accountable to itself (or its \_\_\_\_\_) is the incubation for bad events! It is not enough to teach something is bad, you must instill a line of demarcation. The overwhelming weight of accountability of the youth falls to the parents. It is important to plead with them. *My son... bow thine ear.*
- 2) **The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_** (1.10-15) - Early in life, children must be taught that digital devices (with internet access) are not \_\_\_\_\_. There should be instilled early an awareness that they require some seriousness. As the child grows, parents must make them ever aware of the danger that lurks. Only a lack of prudence would allow for danger to be \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3) **The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_** ( 5.18) - With the advance of Artificial Intelligence, \_\_\_\_\_ are everywhere. We must learn to be content with what we have in this life (I Tim. 6.8). Teach the \_\_\_\_\_ of the internet and social media are not as \_\_\_\_\_ as the reality they \_\_\_\_\_. The abstract \_\_\_\_\_ is always the enemy of the \_\_\_\_\_ good.
- 4) **The Principle of Being an \_\_\_\_\_** (I Tim. 4.12) - As youth raised in an environment where \_\_\_\_\_ is loved and \_\_\_\_\_, there is great hope that each child will come to Christ \_\_\_\_\_ in life. As a young saint of God, they should seek to be an \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of what \_\_\_\_\_ is in this age. Their use of the Internet and Social Media should \_\_\_\_\_ a godly testimony in a \_\_\_\_\_ generation! (Phil. 2.15)
- 5) **The Principle of Progressive Access** (I Cor. 13.11) - As we age, our responsibilities change. With regard to the internet, access to the website should progress with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It is not a place that is safe for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the youth. Maturity and adherence to Biblical principles are \_\_\_\_\_ that will \_\_\_\_\_ throughout adulthood.
- 6) **The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Time-Honored Areas** (Job 31.1) — Don’t let the allure of the digital age be the \_\_\_\_\_ interaction that you (or your child) have. There are numerous and honorable areas in which you can safely spend your time. Don’t let the temptation of technology become your \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7) **The Principle of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_** (Phil. 2.15, Eph. 4.1)— This is specifically important in the area of social media. The cause of Christ should be so important that Christians would self-monitor with \_\_\_\_\_. However, believers often say and post things without asking the question: Does this \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ for God???

Each child of God should remember that every decision of life should ultimately reflect the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (I Pet. 1.18, I John 3.3). Casual engagement within the world’s system is ALWAYS the surest way to \_\_\_\_\_ for the believer! Lot’s life should be a lesson to every saint not to be comfortable with the evils of our \_\_\_\_\_.