

Garbage Can



Local Church Ministries - Pastor B. Kirkland - www.fairhavensbaptist.net

A CONCERNED PARENT

As a result of a request from a concerned parent, asking me to give some guidelines for her children who were using facebook; I researched the site for several days.

I made a survey of only fifteen young people from Independent Baptist churches in our area who were on facebook. (There are at least three times that many fundamental Independent Baptist young people in Ontario, on this social networking site.) I found each of these young people from our fundamental independent Baptist churches had an average of 120 "friends," they communicated with.

"Friends" can only be added if they agree to add them when someone contacts them asking to be one of their "friends."

In checking I found the "friends" of our fundamental independent Baptist churches had the following content on their pages.

- Several of their "friends" had pictures of boys and girls kissing.
- It was common to see their "friends" had pictures of punk rockers on their site.
- Many sites included pictures of people drinking booze.
- Some had demonic and occult pictures.
- Several had very vulgar sexual comments, far too vulgar to print in this report.
- One site had several pictures of girls kissing and licking other girls.
- One site had a picture of a woman in a bikini and a man wearing a bra.
- Several had a promotion of what they called a "friendship beer."

- Another site had a video of a half-naked man dancing, which had been sent to this person's "friends" in Independent Baptist churches.
- One had a logo advertising "Send Me a Drink at Happy Hour."
- One page had an actual photograph of a man's privates.
- On one page a girl reported she wore "pink underwear," "lied to her parents," had gone "skinny dipping," "attended movies," had kicked a man "where it hurts" and said she "cursed regularly."
- One girl reported the outcome of her "Cute vs. Sexy" test, offered on the facebook social network.
- Several had attempted to answer a riddle that included what "makes a man have to pee?"
- Another question was, "Would you rather get caught cheating or go without sex for two years?"
- Another feature on facebook says, "Your friends are SEXY! So let them know - and see how SEXY you are among all your friends! Finally, find other sexy friends on Facebook!"
- Facebook offers a "Sex Button" that says, "Browse profiles of hot looking people and Have Sex! with them in different positions and places! Put a "Have Sex!" button on your profile so your friends can Have Sex! with you."



"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing."

(Second Corinthians 6:17)



RANK PORNOGRAPHY

While I was doing the survey in this garbage can called facebook, I saw a button that appeared on every page that said, "Someone has a crush on you. Click this button to see who it is." I ignored it, however eventually a similar button popped-up on screen. I clicked it and **the most filthy pornography possible appeared on the screen.** I quickly pressed the delete button, but another filthy pornographic picture appeared. This happened several times. The only way I could get the trash off of the screen was to pull the plug on the computer.

I am not talking about a few naked pictures, I am talking about the most rankest possible pornography.

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS ON FACEBOOK

In February of this year, it was reported by all the major TV news stations that about 90,000 *registered* sex offenders have been identified and removed from the social networking Web site MySpace. **Within a few weeks it was reported that over 20,000 of them had joined facebook.**

EVEN MORE SICKENING

What is most sickening about this facebook issue is the fact that fundamental independent Baptist leaders are using facebook as a marketing tool to attract young people to their ministries, and pastors refuse to warn their people about this trashy site.

I have sounded this alarm on three occasions in the past year and yet as of the writing of this article, there remains at least twenty fundamental independent Baptist pastors and youth leaders that I know personally, that received this information, who still promote facebook.

A LETTER FROM A PASTOR

After sounding our first alarm about the trash on facebook, I received the following letter from a youth pastor with some discernment. (Emphasis mine)

*"Thank you for this excellent warning, Bro. Kirkland, At one time, I had profiles on three different social networking sites (Hi5, Bebo, and Facebook), and **everything you said is very true.**"*

*Even if someones' motives for being part of one of these sites is pure, **they cannot help but be bombarded with immorality, pornographic or near pornographic pictures, and all kinds of other wickedness presented and condoned by other "friends" or their "friends" (some sites allow you to view the profiles of your friends friends). Also, most of these sites have very sensual advertisements (including swimsuit calendars, pornographic screen-savers, and dating sites) that will pop up from time to time and are IMPOSSIBLE not to see.***

*I originally joined these sites as a way of keeping in touch with friends from faraway places, and was determined to use my profile as a means of sharing my testimony and being a witness for Christ, as well as keeping an eye on some of our different young people. NEVER ONCE did anyone contact me regarding my testimony, and **after seeing so much of the filth that is on these sites, I was convicted about my participation and cancelled all of my accounts.** I felt that my involvement on these sites far outweighed any good that my Christian testimony had.*

*I'm afraid your estimate of seventy-five fundamental Baptist young people involved with Facebook is a little low; based on my previous involvement, **I would estimate there to be at least 200-300 young people from our circles on Facebook, perhaps even more. Some of these include college students and grads from our Canadian Fundamental Bible Colleges.***

When I left these sites, this is what I wrote:

'Hey everyone, I am going to deactivate my Bebo account. I've been evaluating the things on here and just can't accept or condone what goes on. I was hoping that as a result of having a profile on Bebo, I would have opportunities to witness and share my faith with others, but that isn't happening, and I don't want anyone to think that I approve of a lot of the things that go on in the "World of Bebo."

I still want to keep in contact with all of you, so I'll give you my email address and phone number at the bottom of this message. One of the things that really concerned me about this whole thing is the way many of you try to portray yourselves on your profile. While I appreciate those of you who take a stand for Christ and say you love Him, many of you have pictures, songs, celebrities, and attitudes that show that you love the things that God hates.



Several of you have sensual looking pictures of yourselves posted...for what reason, I don't know - God wants you to be holy (set apart from the World and sin). I'm not saying all this to condemn you - I don't know your heart. God does though, and He's the one to whom you'll have to give an account.

Think about it, people! What image are you trying to portray? Who are you trying to impress? Who SHOULD you be trying to impress? I think you know....I want you all to know that I do love you, and I try to pray for you often. I want you to please God with your life, and find the joy that comes from walking close to Him!

I hope that this information and my own testimony may be a help to you and others."

In Christ,
David Harness
Assistant Pastor
Victory Baptist Church
Sherwood Park, AB

THE DEVIL WANTS OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Psalmist prayed, *"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."* (Psalm 144:12)

SATAN HAS HIS SIGHTS ON "OUR SONS."

Our sons will soon be the leaders in our churches. The Psalmist prayed they would be like strong, well-rooted trees. How they grow in their youth will determine what they will be when they take the leadership of God's church. For young people to grow spiritually there must be nothing between them and Heaven and their roots must not be in polluted ground like facebook.

God's purpose for our young men is that, *"...he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."* The Bible says, *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."* (Psalm 119:9) The devil knows the influence our young men can have for the cause of Christ and he will do everything he can to destroy that influence. The phrase "young man" and "young men" is found in over 150 verses in the Bible.

SATAN HAS HIS SIGHTS ON "OUR DAUGHTERS."

The Psalmist's hearts desire was, *"...that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:"* The daughters in our churches will have a powerful influence on our sons. Godly wives will unite families together as a cornerstone that joins the walls of a palace. Homes become palaces when godly women have a godly influence. It is the devil's plan that our young people, spiritually, *"...die in youth, and their life is among the unclean."* (Job 36:14)

A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIAN YOUNG PEOPLE

Solomon looked back on a wasted life and said in Ecclesiastes chapter 12:1, *"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."*

Paul admonished, *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* (Ephesians 6:13)

TAKE A STAND! SILENCE GIVES CONSENT!

When someone is on the internet promoting punk rock, has pictures of people drinking whiskey, has vulgar sexual comments, has pictures of boys and girls kissing, and pictures of girls licking and kissing each other, do you really want to tell the world that they are your *"mutual friends?"*

When young people have videos of a half naked man dancing, or a photograph of a man's privates do you want to advertise to the world that you are *"mutual friends?"*

When a girl puts on her site that she wears pink underwear, lies to her parents and curses regularly should she be a *"mutual friend?"*

Several Fundamental Baptist young people have the riddle on their own site about *"what makes a man pee"* and the question *"Would you rather get caught cheating or go without sex for two years?"* **How sick is that?**



A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Should you give your approval to a social networking site that says, *"Your friends are sexy! So let them know - and see how sexy you are."* Should you advise your young people to be involved with a site that has a sex button where you can, *"Browse profiles of hot looking people and Have Sex with them in different positions and places! Put a "Have Sex!" button on your profile so your friends can Have Sex! with you."*

The pastor at Ephesus was commanded to, *"...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."* (First Timothy 4:12)

Ephesians 5:10 commands us to be, *"Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."* The Bible says, *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."* (First Corinthians 15:33,34)

Is it not a shameful thing to use a trashy site like facebook as a marketing tool for any ministry of God? Is it not a shameful thing for pastors not to warn their precious young people about wallowing in the filth and garbage found on facebook?

OUR MANDATE IS CLEAR

"...teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean." (Ezekiel 44:23) In Israel's day of apostasy God's leaders refused to obey, and we read, *"...they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean...and I am profaned among them."* (Ezekiel 22:26) As we sink deeper and deeper into the apostasy of our day many fundamental independent Baptist preachers now *"...put no difference between the holy and profane...neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean."*

THREE DAYS IN THE GARBAGE CAN

I wallowed around in the garbage can called facebook for three days because a concerned mother asked me to check it out. Some of what I found is recorded in this article. **Much of it was too filthy to print in this article.** We have reported our finding on three occasions, and yet fundamental independent Baptist pastors and youth leaders continue to publicly promote facebook.

Never before have we seen such a disregard for the Word of God among fundamental independent Baptist pastors as we are seeing today.

MARKETING THE MINISTRY AS WE IGNORE THE MESSAGE

Behind every man's ministry is a philosophy. Simply stated, our philosophy of ministry is how we do what God commands us to do.

We can search the Scriptures from one end to another and nowhere will we find that we are to market God's ministry in any way, shape, or form, let alone using a garbage site like Facebook to do it.



"Well, Lord, I've been thinking about what you said, and I have decided I have a better plan."

Human reasoning replaces the power of God with the programs of man. Human reasoning focuses on what method will work rather than relying on the Holy Spirit to work. When pastors operate under human reasoning they ignore the plain commands of Scripture, replacing them with *"...the process of human logic."* Human reasoning leads pastors to market the ministry and crowds becomes more important than being obedient to the Word of God.

The problem with human reasoning is God says, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8,9)

THE DETERIORATION

When the fundamental independent Baptist movement was getting underway in Canada, we separated from the evangelicals because of their refusal to follow the Word of God. **Would pastors in the evangelical movement at that time, condone what many fundamental independent Baptist pastors are condoning today? Whatever happened to the doctrine of separation?**