



Internet – Good or Bad?

Discuss – what have your experiences been of the internet?
What are the good, bad things about the internet?

What is the Internet?

The internet is a vast communication tool that covers most of the world. It is a device that allows you to access vast amounts of information on almost any subject. This is mainly done through the use of a computer and a phone line.

Short History of the internet

In 1962 the R.A.N.D. corporation in America was asked by the United States Government through the U.S. Airforce to come up with a communication device that could survive a nuclear war and still allow the military to keep control over its nuclear weapons and air force. Their idea was to design a network where there was no centrally controlled authority. Each “node” of the network would be as important as the others and each “node” would be able to send and receive messages. If big parts of the network were blown away the messages would take alternative routes to get to their destination.

The first small internet was developed in 1969 with only four “nodes” linked up. This gave scientists the opportunity to share ideas at distance.

As telecommunications and computers technology increased so did both the speed and user base of the internet. With changes in the speed that cables can send information and the speed that computers can download it the internet has become a global communication network. The people using the internet has been doubling almost every year.

Good Points of the Internet.

- ◆ The internet provides total freedom for the user to access information on any subject that takes their fancy.
- ◆ It is almost like a great big library of information that enables you not only to read information but to listen to it and watch video.
- ◆ The internet is being used extensively for the sharing of ideas in the areas of medical and scientific research this has enabled a cross-fertilisation of ideas which has led to massive medical breakthroughs.
- ◆ The internet enables you to see world affairs from different points of view and then make up your own mind on what is really going on
- ◆ because of the massive amounts of information many schools use the internet as a tool to educate children. Many children use the internet to help them in their home work and school projects.
- ◆ There are massive amounts of Christian web sites that enable the sharing of ideas and the encouraging of God's people world wide. Many prayer chains for different world situations have been started on the web and the information keeps Christians really informed of what is going on Example Prayer for Israel.

Negative Points

- ◆ Like most things the internet can and has been found to be addictive. There is strong evidence to prove that because there is so much material on the internet there is almost bound to be something that can lead most people to addiction. 6 most common addictions of the web. (and all of these are on the increase.)

Cybersex – Cyber Relationships – Online stock trading – Gambling – Information surfing – computer games.

- ◆ The internet has resulted in people's marriages being destroyed (divorce) – adulterous relationships being formed in chat rooms – people getting into massive debt – the increase in membership to hate groups and paedophile rings, the undermining of family life.
- ◆ Because of the private nature of the internet people can and do get involved with what they would normally not had in some cases this has resulted in mental illness with some living in a fantasy world.
- ◆ The internet is not monitored or policed in any real way. The result of this is that the most perverted and destructive material can often be accessed by children. Examples are Hard Porn sites and even snuff sites.
- ◆ The facts prove by far the biggest use for the internet is people accessing pornography - chat rooms and online gaming.

The internet has the potential to destroy society. It has the danger of creating a society without a soul I fear that we are becoming a nation that sit in front of television monitors and order our lives at the touch of a button. The danger of all this wizardry is that people never leave the comfort of their houses and as a result many have no real meaningful interaction face to face. Archbishop David Hope & Archbishop Dr George Carrey

Scripture gives us this command in Philippians Ch 4 v 8

“ Finally brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – the meditate on these things!!

Discuss