

III. PRIORITIZE YOUR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

A. Do use social media for evangelism.

²² "...become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you." I Corinthians 9:22b-23

B. Do use social media to encourage.

¹³ "but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13

C. Do use social media for spiritual growth.

¹⁸ "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." II Peter 3:18

D. Do use social media to strengthen relationships.

¹⁰ "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;" Romans 12:10

E. Do use social media for enjoyment.

⁸ "Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage." Ecclesiastes 5:18

F. Do use social media as a tool, not an idol.

²¹ "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." I John 5:21

ESCAPE THE TEMPTATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

¹³ "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Matthew 6:13

ESCAPING TEMPTATION

Escaping The Temptation Of Social Media

Pastor Steve Reynolds

Introduction:

A. Do you struggle with persistent temptations?

Temptation touches every life, often leaving us feeling weary, discouraged, or alone. Yet God speaks hope into our struggle through His Word:

"No temptation has overtaken you except such is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

A brief theology of temptation:

- It is not a sin to be tempted.
- We face common temptations.
- There is always a way to escape temptation.

B. In this Escaping Temptation teaching series, we will explore how God meets us in our weakness, strengthens us through His faithfulness, and lovingly guides us toward the way of escape restoring our confidence, renewing our hearts, and leading us into freedom.

Feb 22	Escaping The Temptation Of Lust
March 1	Escaping The Temptation Of Worry
March 8	Escaping The Temptation Of Procrastination
March 15	Escaping The Temptation Of Anger
TODAY	Escaping The Temptation Of Social Media
March 29	Finding Hope When You Don't Escape

TEXT: I Corinthians 6:12

The Apostle Paul warns us not to get addicted to things that may be permissible, but not productive.

¹² "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

I Corinthians 6:12

HOW TO ESCAPE THE TEMPTATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

I. EVALUATE YOUR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

A. Fact: Social media is forming you.

“Screens are incredibly formative because they convey stories and images that captivate our imaginations. This doesn’t make them bad; it makes them powerful, and power can be good or bad. But the fact is, for both us parents and our children, we will either form our screen habits or our screen habits will form us. There is no alternative. This is a fight over who forms who.”

Habits Of The Household, Justin Whitmel Earley

¹ *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* Romans 12:1-2

B. Ask myself these questions:

- How is social media forming my priorities?

¹⁵ *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,*

¹⁶ *redeeming the time, because the days are evil”*
Ephesians 5:15-16

- How is social media forming my relationships?

¹¹ *“Therefore, comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”*

I Thessalonians 5:11

- How is social media forming my self-worth?

¹² *“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”*
II Corinthians 10:12

- How is social media forming my words?

³⁶ *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”*
Matthew 12:36

- How is social media forming my children?

⁵² *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*

Luke 2:52

Mentally? Physically? Spiritually? Socially?

II. LIMIT YOUR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

A. Do not get consumed with wasting a lot of time.

¹² *“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*
Psalm 90:12

³⁷ *“Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way.”*
Psalm 119:37

B. Do not get addicted to likes and approval.

¹⁰ *“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”*
Galatians 1:10

C. Do not get involved in unproductive arguments.

²¹ *“As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife.”*

Proverbs 26:21

D. Do not get distracted from what matters most.

⁴⁰ *“But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.”*

⁴¹ *And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.*

⁴² *But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”*

Luke 10:40-42