

Resolution on the Use of Social Media

WHEREAS the rise in electronics and technology has led to a communication explosion with Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, Snapchat and Pinterest being among the most popular, boasting over five billion monthly active users combined, with an increase in communication that has presented great opportunity to proclaim the gospel to a much wider audience (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15); and

WHEREAS this rise in communication has also fed into man's basic love of self, creating a narcissistic society like never before (Romans 12:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-2); and

WHEREAS the ease of posting online and sending out texts has led to impulsive, reactionary communication spreading fire quicker than thought possible (Proverbs 18:6-8, 13, 21; Proverbs 26:17, 20-24) with the ability to speak to a greater audience with a seeming anonymity often creating an atmosphere of hostility and strife (James 3:1-18); and

WHEREAS in the "multitude of words there doesn't lack sin," so social media has increased exponentially the potential damage of unrestrained words (Proverbs 10:19); and

WHEREAS addressing verbal sin in our lives has now become more complicated as the sphere of our offences is now online (Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 12:23; Proverbs 25:9);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches assembled this April 9-10, 2018, at Union Baptist Church in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, do hereby caution God's people to exercise great discretion when it comes to using social media and encourage believers to remember that the great commission is still the great commission when we log onto these web sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we remind Christians to "not think of themselves more highly than they ought," and to "look not every man on his own, but on the things of others" (Romans 12:3; Philippians 2:4) and that God's people must be "swift to *read*, and slow to *post*," knowing that we will give an account of every idle word (James 1:19; Matthew 12:36).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that when using social media, we must remember that our words must be true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy before we post (Philippians 4:8) and that the greater abilities we have in this generation with technology, the more that will be expected of us in God's eyes (Luke 12:48) and to exercise extreme discretion before we post anything knowing that we represent the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 141:3; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6).