

Make Wise Use of Messaging Apps

PLEASE NOTE: This talk is to be delivered by a qualified elder the week of August 17, 2020, in place of the local needs part. Help the congregation to recognize that while messaging apps have some value, they can also be a snare. Encourage all to apply Bible principles in their use of messaging apps

MESSAGING APPS CAN BE USEFUL (1 min.)

Messaging apps such as *WhatsApp*, *Facebook Messenger*, *WeChat*, *QQ Mobile*, *Snapchat*, *Viber*, *Discord*, and *Telegram* are commonly used around the world to connect with other people

Many of Jehovah's people use messaging apps to strengthen the bonds of love with their Christian brothers and sisters

Circuit overseers, elders, and publishers often use message groups to convey helpful information, to encourage one another, or simply to keep in touch (1Th 5:11)

RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS (6 min.)

Some have formed message groups of hundreds or thousands to organize large social gatherings or for other reasons

With such large groups, it is difficult to determine the spiritual standing of those in the group

Disfellowshipped persons and apostates may even gain or maintain access (2Jo 9-11)

The originator of a message group should manage access to the group and personally know the individuals who are part of the group (*od* 13:19-20)

Bible principles: Psalm 26:4; Proverbs 14:15, 16; 27:12; 2 Timothy 2:20, 21

Some have used messaging apps to offer employment, products, or services to fellow believers

Christians should not target theocratic contacts to advance business interests (*km* 7/00 1 ¶12)

Bible principles: 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24; Hebrews 13:5

FOLLOW ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (4 min.)

Some with good intentions have used messaging apps to solicit funds for brothers in need

However, there are arrangements already in place to help such ones

What is the organizational arrangement to assist fellow believers financially? (1Co 14:40; *od* 12:12-15)

Bible principles: 1 Timothy 5:3, 4, 9, 10, 16; James 1:27

“DO ALL THINGS FOR GOD’S GLORY” (4 min.)

Our actions affect our friendship with God **[Read Psalm 15:1-4]**

The principles in Psalm 15 also apply to our use of messaging apps

We should share only stories that have been verified (vs 2)

We should make comments that enhance the reputation of others (vs 3)

We should cultivate friendship only with those who love and fear Jehovah (vs 4)

May we always strive to glorify Jehovah in whatever we do **[Read 1 Corinthians 10:31]**

TO BE COVERED IN 15 MINUTES

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