Social media has become the devil's greatest tool

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After the turn of the century, the Internet expanded greatly, opening doors for businesses and creating immense storage hubs for information. Then it entertained us with videos and memes and provided us with social media platforms. These platforms made us feel important, giving us our own space to add pictures and type comments. Then something drastic happened. A social media consciousness swirled up from the dust, taking on a life of its own.

In the beginning all was good until it bit into the proverbial apple. First, it lured people who believe anything or everything they see or read on a screen. Social media became their primary source of news and information. After that it didn't take long for campaigns of misinformation to proliferate throughout its networks to the point it had become a tangled web of chaos. And amazingly, to many people, social media is now more of a reality than the real world itself.

The consciousness of social media is open to all kinds of negativity. It welcomes divisive comments and creates animosity and provides battlegrounds for arguments. It thrives in an environment where friends and family members become pitted against one another. It adores confusion and contributes to the unproductive results of people everywhere *(a survey by Entrepreneur indicated employees spend between 3 and 15 hours a week on social media during work time.)* It promotes events and organizations that intend to harm society, motivates people to commit acts of violence, disavows religion and God, and censors or shuts down people whose viewpoints are not the same as the evil infiltrators who are gaining more and more traction throughout the world--and the devil is thrilled about all of this!

How many times have you been roped into the vortex of a social media thread instead of doing something constructive or getting a good night's sleep? I can't tell you how often I'd go to bed at night and succumb to the temptation to take a quick glance at social media only to find myself an hour an twenty minutes later still scrolling, getting baited into ridiculous thread conversations. I'd eventually put my phone down but not without higher blood pressure and my heart in a bad place.

Some people use social media in a positive way, posting pictures of family members and captions to let us know what's going on. I appreciate those posts because when it comes to an awesome couple I know, I got to see their kids grow up from 3,000 miles away. And of course there are all those selfies out there intended to boost someone's self-worth based on "likes," "loves," and reaffirming comments, as well as the light-hearted video clips that make us all smile. But all too often, these types of social media posts are overrun by posts trying to get us to subscribe to someone's viewpoint about something. If fact, many people out there are demanding us to believe what they believe. And they think if they link a so-called news story to their post that they will have proven their point. And that's all the evidence we need, right? We're sold and converted. But…

It doesn't work that way. I'll let you in on a secret I've learned after numerous hours of head-banging frustration: No one will hardly ever convince anyone else to change their minds about their political, ideological, religious, or moral views. You can't persuade someone on social media who loves something to hate it or who hates it to love it--or someone who believes something to not believe it or who doesn't believe it to believe it. No amount of common-sense dictation on social media will ever create common sense. The best result you can hope for is that those who have similar views as you join your social media campfire and type Kumbaya.

If social media is making you become someone you aren't comfortable being or is steering you in a direction that doesn't feel right or is making you do things that are destructive to yourself, others, or society, then I recommend you take a break from it for awhile. Perhaps a social media sabbatical of 30 days or longer will do wonders in rejuvenating or rediscovering your true essence. Or you can apply the "unfollow" or "unfriend" function to other people's profiles in some social media platforms. This will enable you to weed out posts you don't want to see in your social media news feed. Either tactic can help reduce or eliminate the negative effects of social media on your life.

With evil gaining a foothold in social media, you must be careful how you interpret what you read and see because it won't take much for you to get swept away in evil's undercurrent of deception and hate. And always be careful when typing comments on social media. Many ill-advised posts have cost professionals their jobs and social media influencers their reputations. Don't let social media control or ruin your life.

The future effects of social media are concerning, but always remember that the thoughts you have and actions you take as a result of or in spite of social media are completely your choices. Make good choices.

~ The End ~