

Internet Safety

There are a number of tools and practices that can be implemented in our homes to help protect ourselves and our children from a world of corruption that's only a click away. The statistics for pornography viewing are deeply troubling and the damage to relationships is heartbreaking. The percent of Christian men and woman who admit to regularly viewing online content is alarming. More disturbing are the results from recent surveys that report 90% of children ages 11 and up have already seen graphic sexual content online. It's not just computers we need safeguard and monitor, online content is easily available from multiple devices (even cameras and hand held game players for children!), it is imperative for parents to be aware and engaged.

Every home should follow these 3 rules:

- Filter - Install a content filter that will block pornographic and inappropriate content. Place passwords on devices so that internet usage will be requested/known.
- Monitor - Supervise and monitor all electronic devices with internet approved access and/or ask someone to monitor your activity. Parents have passwords and access to child's email, facebook, devices, etc.
- Accountability – Screens are positioned in open viewable areas, parents hold children accountable, husbands and wives hold each other accountable, no one keeps secret accounts or access to email or social sites, singles seek accountability with mature believers.

Children and teenagers should NEVER have internet enabled devices without active accountability (filtering & monitoring) being practiced by parents. If it's helpful, parents can create an "electronic device usage policy" for their home for the family to follow. Having a policy in place can help to protect our purity and will be a helpful tool to stand on when new devices come into our home or our children get older and look for more freedom. It is important to understand that policies can help us but the greatest safety measure is a heart that fears God and finds its satisfaction in Christ so let that be the ultimate aim for you and your family!

Content Filter & Monitoring Tools:

- Mobicip for mobile devices, a safe browser with filtering and reporting.
- Net Nanny - filtering, reporting, etc.
- Norton Family - free to Comcast/xfinity customers, for PC and mobile devices.
- OpenDNS to protect at the router level.
- Addition suggestions on the Pure Desire website (the ones who produce the Conquer series that the men of the church are working through): <http://www.puredesire.org/en/about/resources>

This message is also available on our church website on the Online Family Resources page.