

Digital Drugs Series Theme Verse: Psalm 106:29, 39; Romans 1:30

Lesson 6: The Disguise of Truth - Col. 3:3 - *"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."*

1. Mask of Illusion

Social Media hides your true identity. Your friends and followers can become a status symbol - an automatic temptation to become friends with people who you've never met. Someone you've never met is not your friend! And sharing what you had for lunch does not build a relationship with someone - there's no intimacy in that. It's not bringing you closer to others, it is actually driving you farther away from those who really care about you. **It's giving you an artificial relationship with a lot of people and no close relationships with few people. A large circle of acquaintances is not more valuable than a small circle of close friends.** The internet allows you to have a mask on and hide yourself behind it, but your true identity is revealed by who you are in Christ Jesus. If you are being a person that God doesn't want you to be, you are building deceitful relationships. Social Media allows you to paint a fairy tale: perfect job, perfect family, perfect everything. How shallow it is to portray a phony life and to pretend that you have it all together, just to impress somebody that you don't even know. Do you not realize that the friends that love you the most are those who have seen you at your worst, and they still love you!

2. Mode of Interference

The smartphone distracts you from having real relationships and interferes with your real life. Your life is so interrupted by it, that the notifications from your apps become more important than your interactions with your real family and friends. You hide behind the screen instead of facing reality. Inventions over the last 80 years include the television (1940), tape recorder (1947), portable radio (1950), personal computer (1977), portable video camera (1982), internet (1985), cell phone (1989), email (1990), texting (1993), digital camera (1995), MP3 player (1998), and social media (2003). **The smartphone is all of these things in one device! It causes interference in every aspect of your life and prevents you from building mature, Christian relationships.**

3. Model of Iniquity

There is too much "me" in Social Media (self-promotion). It makes your life seem very interesting, trying to get the attention of others. It causes you to have self-pity, broadcasting all your sorrows to try and get sympathy from others. It can lead to you being a narcissist, trying to inform the world how great of a person you are. Prov. 16:18; Phi. 2:3. Some people think their life is so interesting, they want to give you a play-by-play of every meal, every headache, every argument with their significant other, etc. But that doesn't mean that you know that person. They're sharing what they want you to know.

4. Molded into His Image

Instead of living in a fantasy world and hiding behind a smartphone that causes you to escape reality, why not seek to be more like Christ and allow Him to transform your life into who He wants you to be? This will not provide you with temporary pleasure, but permanent joy! Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18. **Christians are supposed to be Christ-like. The only way we can become more like Him is if we spend more time with Him! AMEN!**