



## Featured Article...

HOME

What's Inside

Featured Article

Foreign Evangelism

Teacher's Pet

2nd Helping

Children's Chatter

Archives

Book Store

Workbooks for Women

Workbooks for Teens

Bible Class Resources

Homeschool Products

Special Interest

Websites for Teachers

Contact Us

### Where in the Web are Your Kids? by Becky Allen



The WORLD WIDE WEB. To the computer illiterate those words may strike fear. To some it may be fun and entertainment, a habit, a nuisance, or even their livelihood. What do those words mean to you? But more importantly, what do they mean to your kids?

In many homes across America and the world, the home computer is kept in the kids' room behind closed doors. Wherever you happen to have yours, you will want to watch a little closer when your children are using it—that little www. that can take us to so many places. But where is it taking our children? No matter the age of your child, a careful eye needs to be kept on their internet activity. Sometimes it is by accident that our children are exposed to extremely ungodly activities, but sometimes it is not.

The young and naïve can and will give out personal details and thoughts that seem perfectly harmless. They do not understand why it would be wrong or dangerous. In fact, a recent Congressional Study showed that 75% of children are willing to share personal information online about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services.

What we and our children need to know is that child predators are ready and waiting for any piece of personal information that may be unwittingly given out. They know just how to disguise themselves to gain your children's trust and pull more information out of them. Once they have that trust, then they will want to try and set up a meeting. Parents, this is scary!

As for the older kids, many teens are members of online social networks (e.g. MySpace.com). These sites allow members to create a webpage and enhance it with diaries, pictures, blogs, etc. They allow members to stay in touch with friends as well as help them to "make a statement" about who they are. Sounds good, especially to teenagers who are on the brink of adulthood and trying to become the person they want to be. They want to be popular, accepted, admired, and some will do whatever is necessary to obtain it. The problem with this is that many create an image of who they want to be rather than who they really are. This can be detrimental not only physically but also spiritually.

We, as parents, need to take a stand. Is this topic pleasant? NO! But many parents would be mortified if they only knew half of what their kids, even "Christian kids," are posting and discussing between emails and on the internet. Does that mean you might have to tell your kids no? Yes! Does that mean they might get angry and tell you that you are old and don't know what it's like to be a kid? More than likely.

So how do we help them? First, young people need someone to talk to about their hopes, dreams, problems, everything! We as parents need to be that someone. We need to let them talk through and discuss things, share in their goals, listen to them. We need to look at this as not only a responsibility, but as an opportunity and privilege to help mold strong, faithful Christians. It has been said, "You may not reach them with everything you say, but if you don't talk to them, you'll never reach them." Secondly, we need to set the example. Nothing says more than our actions. And thirdly, we can pray, pray, and pray some more!

Also, good Christian friends that have the same godly morals will be a force like none other when it comes to withstanding the temptations of the world. Surround them with people, places, and opportunities that will only strengthen their resolve. If bad company corrupts good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33), then surround them with good company that erases bad morals.

The responsibility of parenthood is God-given (Ephesians 6:4). Psalm 127:3-4 tells us, *Behold, children are a gift of the Lord*, and the wisdom of Solomon tells us in Proverbs 22:15, *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him*. If children are a gift from the Lord and discipline helps remove foolishness, then shouldn't we be doing all that we can to guide our children down the straight and narrow?

Ignorance is not an excuse. Neither is computer illiteracy. These are your kids and they need to be informed of the dangers, not only to their physical well being, but also to their spiritual. Take a stand and know everything your kids are doing on the internet. It could save their lives!