

## Pastor Greg's Response to Myspace

### What should you do?

#### **1. Be in control of your students myspace.**

You need to know the password and be regularly checking their page for any suspicious friends or activity. You are the parent, this is not something that can be left in the hands of teens to deal with alone. Even the most responsible teen can make little mistakes that could cause huge consequences.

By the way, your teenager is probably not going to like this one. But this is a battle worth winning. I believe that if a student can not share their myspace with you then they should not have one. If they don't want you to see it is because there are things on there that you would not approve of. I talk regularly with good teens who have inappropriate stuff on their myspace profile.

#### **2. Clean it up. (no sexual images poses or revealing clothes)**

Make sure that your teens myspace is super clean. What I mean is no images of girls in bathing suits. (they do this often) No sexual poses or pictures with tight or revealing clothes. No images of them at parties where drinking is going on. All of these things are big turn-ons for sexual predators.

#### **3. Remove all personal info:**

There should be no personal info, like address, full name, phone number, im addresses, class schedule. One recent rape case came about because a girl had her class schedule in her profile. Her school was there, her picture was there, It was everything the sexual predator needed to find her.

Remember teens think this is just for them and their friends, but anyone in the world can see their site on the Internet... unless you make it private.

#### **4. Make your myspace private.**

This is easy to do, it blocks anyone who is not your friend from viewing your profile. This is a must. Teens don't like this because it is harder to get friends and do certain stuff, but it is a must for safety.

#### **5. Don't approve friends unless you know who they are.**

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,  
<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Anyone can ask to be your friend, but it is always best to check and make sure you know who that person is before you accept them.