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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### Smartphones that Spread Sickness - November 10, 2015

*Only the Great Physician can save us from the sinful use of smartphones.*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

A smartphone can't fix stupid. Which is why a smartphone in the hands of a stupid person is rapidly spreading sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

I'm not really blaming the smartphone for causing the sudden tsunami of STD's. It's actually people who deserve the blame, for using certain applications on their digital devices.

In my previous [Viewpoint](#), I wrote, "Our world's modern advances have not only failed to fix our personal woes and society's problems, in many ways they've contributed to our problems" ([Celestial Navigation](#)). Case in point is the urgent warning that health officials are broadcasting about so-called "hook up" apps. These software tools encourage people to fornicate by finding like-minded philanderers. In fact, these apps make it so quick and easy to philander, they're triggering an alarming spread of STD's. For example, the Rhode Island Department of Health documents that from 2013 to 2014

- cases of syphilis rose by 79 per cent
- cases of gonorrhea by 30 per cent

Isn't this unreal? In our modern world that boasts of "education" and "protection" and "pharmaceuticals" we're observing an epidemic of STDs that formerly plagued Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as ancient Corinth and Rome! Stupid can't fix stupid, even if stupid has a smartphone.

Oh, but it's worse than you may think. In the world of medicine, these tornadic trends are feared to be what will allow AIDS to reach that critical mass that explodes into a world-wide plague of Biblical proportions.

Yep, take a good gift that God designed for a married man and woman to enjoy between just the two of them, and misuse it...and....well...the Christian knows that's being stupid.

Scripture, however, says it's worse than being stupid. It's rebellion against Almighty God. And just as you and I would shut and lock our door if there was rioting in our street, God shuts his door. "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:10). These words apply to anyone who willfully disobeys God by practicing a sin, by defending it, promoting it

or making excuses for it. In other words, these hookup apps are not just spreading STD's and AIDS, but spreading eternal condemnation.

But the Almighty is not in the business of being God because he desires to damn. No, he seeks to save sinners. So he uses the scourge of STDs and AIDS to help people come to grips with the judgment that every sinner has earned from God. God does this so that each of us sinners despairs, and in desperation we're turned to the God who's reputed to offer mercy. For God wants all people to find in him the undeserved gift of mercy. Which is why, after making a short list of the walking damned, the apostle does not put down his pen, but excitedly inks this blessed reversal: **"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"** (1 Corinthians 6:10-11).

The city of Corinth was already a bustling brothel of sexual sin. So if the citizens of Corinth had smartphones with hookup apps... *I don't even want to go there!* But Paul brought the Word of Christ to this bordello of a city, and it saved many people from something far worse than STDs and AIDS. The message of how Christ's holy blood shed at the cross heals us from the disease of sin fixed all those who were led to believe in Christ. Hearts fixed in faith don't use hook up apps to play the field because they're harvesting blessings from a much different field.

A smartphone can't fix stupid. But a smartphone that displays the Bible can lead the sick and diseased to get connected to Jesus, the great physician. A smartphone that promotes this kind of connection is a gift from God.

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[R.I. officials say dating apps contributing to rise of STDs](#) @ Boston Globe

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

