



Common Types of Cyberbullies

“the group is as guilty as the bully. They are either approving of the action are not doing anything to stop it.”

“Mean Girls” or Groups: This kind of mob-mentality type of bullying is not usually done alone, or at least it is planned in a group. It's usually done for entertainment, because they think it's fun, but don't understand how serious it is with the damage they are doing. It may be something that takes place or is planned in the school library or slumber party or any place where a group of friends get together. This kind of bullying requires an audience. The bully is showing off for the group and they get their reward from the group's approval of their actions. In this case, the group is as guilty as the bully. They are either approving of the action or not doing anything to stop it. They are often like the playground instigators who push others in the flights.

The Vengeful Angel: This type of bully seldom sees themselves as a bully. They usually see themselves as a righting a wrong or helping out a friend. If they have a friend who's being bullied online, they may join in to try to protect them. Perhaps they have a friend who is being bullied in school and they decide to go after the bully on the Internet. When they do this, they will often hide behind a secret identity thinking that no one can find out who they all are.

The Power Bully: This type of cyberbully is very much like the playground bully. They want to show that they are more powerful than somebody else. It's like the playground bully that tries to obtain power through fear or by hurting someone. This type of bully usually needs an audience. Sometimes this type of bully is actually someone who is being bullied in school. They act tough online, but aren't tough in real life. Again, they are making the mistake of using bullying to try to fight bullying.

Internet/Game Bully: Sometimes this type of bully has a lot of technical knowledge and uses the Internet or multi-player video games as a tool for their bullying. Because of their technical skills in the ability to do damage to someone else's computer, this type of bully is very dangerous. They seldom seem to understand how serious the things they are doing really are.

Cyberbullying ultimately takes many forms. Whether it is a classic case of a certain type of bully or a mixture of several characteristics, if you or your loved ones are being bullied we urge you to immediately report it to the appropriate authorities or responsible adults.

The AFIM is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed by experienced video game developers and former interactive entertainment executives to provide parents with the information, tools and resources they need to guide and protect their families in the use and enjoyment of video games, interactive entertainment and the Internet. To learn more about the AFIM and how we can help your church or organization just call us at:

1-866-795-2433 or go to: **www.afim.org**