



WANT TO HOOK UP? WE'VE GOT AN APP FOR THAT!

By Walt Mueller

Trend Alert:

Bang With Friends Facebook App

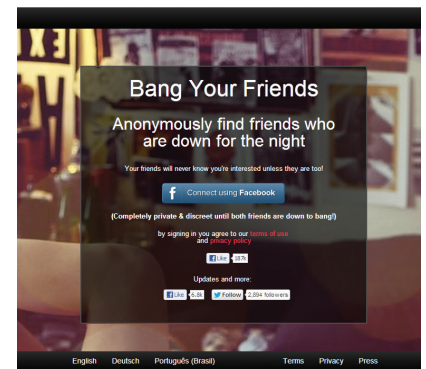
There's a new social media ingredient in the soup of today's youth culture. It's a Facebook App that launched in January 2013 and has since gone viral called "Bang With Friends." The app is self-billed as a way to "anonymously find friends who are down for the night."

Friends... anonymous... down for the night. There you have it. That's what sex has become these days. The reality is that as far as our mainstream culture goes, there are no borders or boundaries that serve to guide young people into responsible and God-honoring sexual behavior. In other words, sex is now about doing whatever you want, wherever you want, whenever you want, however you want, with whoever you want. . . even if you don't know that person or even that person's name.

Here's how "Bang With Friends" works: First, you download the app. Then, you log in. What you see are pictures of your Facebook friends. When the app first launched, the faces you saw were of your opposite-sex friends. Of course, that will most likely change pretty quickly in today's sexual climate. Under each of their photos is a button that says "Down to Bang." Click on the buttons under the photos of the friends you'd like "to bang". If they use the app and click on your face, you get a notification email telling you that you've got a match. Then, you and the other person just take it from there.

The still anonymous co-founders of "Bang With Friends" say this about the thinking behind the app: "We saw a lot of frustration with how dating was happening, especially in the younger generation. We also saw discontent with how things are working in the online dating world. We want people to be exactly who they are and say exactly what they want. We've seen BWF resonate with our generation, the 18-30 age group." The developers see "Bang With Friends" as a way to change the sexual landscape by facilitating "ideal no-risk hook-ups" that put sex in its "proper place."

Are Facebook users using "Bang with Friends?" To date, the number of people who have downloaded the app is close to a million, and according to the app's designers, "Bang With Friends" is already responsible for a couple hundred thousand "matches."



***Sex is now
about doing
whatever you
want, wherever
you want,
whenever you
want, however
you want, with
whoever you
want. . . even if
you don't know
that person
or even that
person's name.***



By Walt Mueller

WANT TO HOOK UP? WE'VE GOT AN APP FOR THAT!

At the March 2013 SXSW (South by Southwest) annual music, film, and tech festival in Austin, TX, "Bang With Friends" enabled the festival to become a "Down to Bang" hot spot. The app launched a new landing page for SXSW attendees who wanted to hook up with each other. This too, is a sign of things that have not only already arrived on the cultural landscape, but of the future.

No doubt, all of us who have a history of struggling with sexual pressures, temptations, and sin in our teenage and young adult lives (that's all of us!) have to be thankful that something like this wasn't a part of our cultural landscape. Now – in a world without sexual borders and boundaries – "Bang With Friends" makes the pressures and temptations for those who embrace a biblical sexual ethic that much more difficult. We have to be concerned for our kids. . . for so, so many reasons. . . far too many to mention here.

The advent of "Bang with Friends" should cause us to ponder what happens every time a person steps out of God's grand and glorious "YES" and design for sexuality. Recent research on the chemistry and composition of the brain shows that we are integrated and marvelously made beings who God has wired for sex. The sex that He's wired us for is to be between one man and one woman within the context of a monogamous covenantal marriage. God made it so that a couple commits to each other in marriage, *then* they consummate that commitment in the glorious act of sexual intercourse. Now,

here's something amazing: research on the brain shows that when a couple does that, an amazingly complex release of brain chemicals occurs that binds the couple together and makes them want to come back for more. In effect, God has made us to be sexually "addicted" to each other within the context of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. Sadly, the same addiction occurs every time a person engages in sex. . . either alone, with another, or with an image on a screen. . . consequently corrupting God's design *and* ourselves when sexual activity is not with our spouse.



If you haven't done so already, every one of us who are parents, youth workers, pastors, etc. should take the time to talk to the Facebook-using kids we know and love. And the conversation should start with this sentence: "I want to talk to you about 'Bang with Friends' . . ."

DR. WALT MUELLER,

President, the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding

**CPYU'S
DIGITAL
KIDS
INITIATIVE**



PHONE: (717) 361-8429 FAX: (717) 361-8964

EMAIL: DIGITALKIDS@CPYU.ORG

For additional information on the digital world of kids, visit the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding's Digital Kids Initiative at digitalkidsinitiative.com.

CPYU grants permission for this article to be copied in its entirety, provided the copies are distributed free of charge and the copies indicate the source as the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding.

Here are two books on young people and sexuality that we highly recommend and that you can purchase at CPYU's online Resource Center

(WWW.CPYURESOURCECENTER.ORG):

**QUESTIONS KIDS ASK ABOUT SEX:
HONEST ANSWERS FOR EVERY AGE
by The Medical Institute for
Sexual Health**

**SEX AND DATING: QUESTIONS YOU WISH
YOU HAD ANSWERS TO
by Mindy Meier**

