



CHRISTIANS
— AND —
SOCIAL
MEDIA

Christians & Social Media

Today we're going to consider the Christian and social media. Social media is simply a means of communication – websites and apps that enable users to create and share content or to connect socially online.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS:

- Facebook has 1.79 billion active users; Twitter has 317 million active users; Instagram has 500 million active users; Pinterest has 100 million active users; LinkedIn has 106 million subscribers.
- Every day there are over 1 billion people logging into Facebook.
- The average time spent on social media is 76 minutes daily.
- 70% of Facebook users say they log in daily. 46% admit to logging in several times daily
- 1 in 3 divorce cases cited the word “Facebook”
- Face to face family time has decreased from 33% to 8%
- 2/3 workers access Facebook during work

If Christ is Lord of our life (1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 3:4), that includes every aspect of our life, including what we type, text, like, share, and look at on the internet. Consider some principles from the Bible that apply to our use of social media:

DON'T'S OF SOCIAL MEDIA:

DON'T BRING DISHONOR

- What we do reflects upon more than just ourselves. It reflects upon our family, this church, and even upon God (Prov. 10:1; 2 Sam. 12:14)
- The things I like, share, post – if it is endorsing evil, wicked behavior, profanity, immodesty, lust, or sin of any kind, shame is brought upon me, my family, this church, and most importantly – God.

DON'T STIR UP CONTROVERSY

- Some people delight in stirring the pot, in posting controversial messages all to get a response.
- The Bible teaches we are not to provoke one another to anger (Gal. 5:26), and to avoid such discussions (Tit. 3:9)
- Stop and think – in posting something controversial I may be upsetting the faith of others, or causing some to stumble. Don't be that person.

DON'T TAKE PRIVATE ISSUES PUBLIC

- There are some things that need to be kept private. Conflict is one of them. Conflict with another needs to be addressed privately (Matt. 18:15; Prov. 17:9)
- Don't go blast another person in public, or take your anger out on them in public. Go to them and work it out face to face.
- Family issues, church issues, marriage issues, need to be kept private.



DON'T LET IT CONTROL YOU

- Social media and technology can be addictive. One study showed that the average person spends 35 minutes a day on Facebook. Another study showed that 58% of smartphone users don't go 1 hour without checking their phones.
- Social media can consume so much of our time and energy that it takes us away from what is truly important. Don't be enslaved by technology (1 Cor. 6:12). Make the most of the time you have (Eph. 5:16).
- Parents – make sure you monitor your children's use of the internet and social media. Impure and indecent content are easy to stumble upon.

DO'S OF SOCIAL MEDIA:

DO THINK BEFORE YOU POST

- Am I applying the golden rule? (Matt. 7:12)?
- Am I regarding others as more important than myself (Phil. 2:3)?
- Is it true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, worthy of praise? (Phil. 4:8)?
- Would it glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31)
- *What would Jesus post?*

DO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

- Social media gives us the opportunity to connect with brethren instantly.
- We can help, strengthen, encourage, teach, and uplift one another every day with a click of the mouse (Heb. 3:13).
- Each day I can text, FB message, email, call, and reach out to the brethren, letting them know I'm thinking about them, and praying for them.



DO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

- Our aim to share the gospel with the "world" has become a lot easier with technology (Mark 16:15). We can reach people across the country and the world from our living room.
- The world is online. The world is connected every day on Facebook. We need men and women who are willing to share and post about Jesus.
- The average Facebook user has 300 friends. Imagine being able to say anything to 300 people! Don't waste that opportunity!
- Luke 12:48 reminds us that with great blessings comes great expectations. We have an opportunity to reach a lot of people with the gospel. This opportunity may not always be here. We need to commit to shining our positive influence for Christ online.

-Jordan Shouse





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Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am
Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm

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