

To Post or Not to Post! That is the question.

(A few thoughts on a believer's interactions on social media)

Part 1

5.3.26

Intro:

-Words are powerful

-God the Father had a lot to say about words.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

-Jesus had warnings about our communication

Matt 12:36 I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless^[a] word they speak.

-Most of engage in some form of social media.

-We use it for various objectives.

-The preacher will probably get blocked on his social media after this talk!

I. Observations:

A. Do Christians have the same right to free speech as all Americans?

Gal 2: ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ, and **I no longer live**, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,^[1] I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I Cor 6:19-20 ¹⁹Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

As an American we have the right to free speech.

As a Christian however we must follow biblical principles regarding communication.

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

B. Are we assuming that everything we post on social media is viewed from a Christian paradigm? (The way we see life)

I Cor 2:14 ¹⁴But the person without the Spirit^[f] does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated^[g] spiritually.

C. Are we engaging in legitimate debate and dialogue or simply just asserting our opinions with no real substance?

Have we researched?

Are we using AI as our primary research tool?

Do we know all the facts?

Are you trying to win an argument just to satisfy our prideful intentions?

[Philippians 2:3](#) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

II. Why should we be talking about social media as believers.

A. We are becoming more polarized as a nation and universal church.

It is usually due to political, religious and cultural issues.

Matt 24:9-12 "Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰Then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. ¹¹Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹²Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, ⁴traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear what they want to hear. ⁴They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.

B. We, as believers, can blur the line of Lordship by inappropriate post

For I fear that perhaps when I come I will not find you to be what I want, and you may not find me to be what you want. Perhaps there will be quarreling, jealousy, angry outbursts, selfish ambitions, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder. 2 Corinthians 12:20

There are 3 types of people in this world.

Saved and following Jesus (Spiritual)

Lost

Carnal. Believers that behave like unbelievers.

James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,

C. We are, as believers, exhibiting a clear sign of not being controlled by the Holy Spirit by inappropriate social media interactions

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control**. The law is not against such things. Galatians 5:22-23

Matt 5: ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may **see your good works** and give glory to your Father in heaven.

D. We as believers must balance speaking truth with grace.

John 4: ¹⁶“Go call your husband,” he told her, “and come back here.”

¹⁷“I don’t have a husband,” she answered.

“You have correctly said, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus said. ¹⁸“For you’ve had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

³⁹Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said^[k] when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.”

E. We as believers, are potentially spreading misinformation, false teaching, misinterpreted scriptures, or making idols out of people through our posts.

The Lord hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: ¹⁷arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, ¹⁹a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

F. We as believers must verify our motives when posting truth.

(We may post a truth with intention of harm)

Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and **slander** be removed from you, along with all malice. Ephesians 4:31

Close:

“If the pastor at your funeral shared your last 20 post, what would it say about you?”

Douglas Bursch. Pastor