

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

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

Part 2

In review.....

- God the Father had a lot to say about words.
- Jesus had some warnings about our communication
- Most of us have some form.
- We use it for various things
- I am probably going to get blocked!

I. Observations:

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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 posts

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

Matt 5: ¹⁶ In 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.”

³⁹ Now 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, can spread lies through 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: ¹⁷ arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, ¹⁹ a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

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

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III. What are the spiritual goals of your post on social media?

(What should our end goal be)

A. Glory

I Cor 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do everything** for the glory of God.

B. Helpful

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted. Galatians 6:1

C. Truthful

Therefore, putting away lying, **speak the truth**, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another. Ephesians 4:25

D. Missional

Matt 28: ¹⁹Go, therefore, and make disciples of^[e] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

1 Peter 2:12

IV. So how do I know what to post online?

A. We wait

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

Do you see someone who speaks too soon? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Proverbs 29:20

B. We pray

James 1:5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him.

C. We evaluate

Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent—discerning, when he seals his lips. Proverbs 17:28

Mark Twain....” Never argue with a fool. Onlookers may not be able to tell the difference.”

Be careful that AI isn't doing your thinking.

AI research findings from Tim Barnett and Greg Koukle at Red Pen Logic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y-iqSQH7TM>

<https://subsplash.com/u/standtoreason/media/d/kvh73wr-how-ai-and-social-media-are-making-us-dumber>

“We must stop outsourcing critical thinking”

D. We post (with love and grace)

But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.
Ephesians 4:15

VI. So what do I do now if I have messed up?

A. Repent

I John 1:9 If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and righteous to **forgive** us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

B. Delete

C. Replace

Ephe 4: ²⁴ and to **put on**^[1] the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

Close:

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

Douglas Bursch. Pastor