

# Social Media and Personal Evangelism

# Introduction

- **Christians are to be imitators of God and Christ.**

- “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:6).
- “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).
- “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma” (Eph. 5:1-2).

- **Christians are called to be Christ’s ambassadors.**

- “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us” (2 Cor. 5:20).

**When it comes to social media, Christians must not forget who they are.**

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# Recognize the Pitfalls

- **Looking for approval in the wrong place/from the wrong people.**
    - “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10).
  - **Doing good deeds to be seen of men.**
    - “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matt. 6:1-4).
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# Recognize the Pitfalls

- **Sin is crouching at our door and lies around every corner.**
    - Pornography is everywhere.
    - Things purposefully designed to invoke your anger is everywhere.
  - **Social media does not provide an accurate depiction of the real world!**
    - Filtered/enhanced photos not conveying the “real” person.
    - Mere glimpses at people’s lives which do not provide the full details.
    - Promotion of celebrities, athletes, musicians, etc.
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# Use Social Media as Honest Expression of Faith

- **Personal evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian (man and woman, young and old).**
    - See Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 5:40-42, 8:1-4, 20:20, 28:30-31.
  - **Are you too ashamed of our Lord to spread the good news?**
    - “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26).
    - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).
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# Use Social Media as Honest Expression of Faith



We should never be ashamed of anything that God's Word teaches, including teachings that are unpopular in our culture.

Social media is an incredible resource. Just imagine what the apostles could have done with the technology we have today, yet many of us refuse to use our greatest resource in spreading the gospel – shame on us!!

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# Be “Full of Grace, Seasoned With Salt”

- **Christians are to be salt and light to the world, enhancing and providing direction to the lives of others.**
    - “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:13-16).
  - **Let there be no doubt to whom you speak that you are kind.**
    - “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Col. 4:5-6, ESV).
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# Be Honest, Yet Kind and Respectful

- **Speak the truth in love with a desire to save others.**
    - “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (Eph. 4:15).
    - “Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor. 5:11a).
  - **Even then, we may still make enemies.**
    - “Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16).
    - “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law” (Luke 12:51-53).
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# Be Honest, Yet Kind and Respectful

- **The earthly consequences do not outweigh the eternal reward.**

- “Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (Matt. 19:29).

- **We must show grace to all people, even those who don’t show grace to us.**

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:43-48).
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# Don't Contribute to Misinformation

- **What are we putting our stamps of approval on?**

- “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22).

- **Are we posting/sharing the truth?**

- “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you” (Tit. 2:7-8).
  - “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).
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# Try Being Positive

- **There is a time for positive teaching.**
  - See Matt. 5:3-12.
- **There is a time for negative teaching.**
  - See Matt. 23.

God's will included and still includes both "positive" and "negative" teaching. I am not intending to disprove this truth but, instead, encourage us to think positively and have a positive attitude when we navigate through social media.

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# Try Being Positive

- **Christians should have a positive demeanor.**

- Love “does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil” (1 Cor. 13:5).
- “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

- **What better way to be positive than by sharing the “good news.”**

- “But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women” (Acts 8:12, ESV).
  - “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns’” (Isaiah 52:7).
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Social media has changed the world and the very nature of communication. Christians must not forget that everywhere we go, we represent our savior. So, before you post, tweet, or share, remember: **You are an ambassador for Christ.** Let's make sure we are acting like it.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”  
(Matt. 5:16).