



10 Commandments for Christians on Social Media

1. Thou shalt remember on social media to first honor Jesus.

It's vital for you to remember that even though your name is on the profile – before you represent yourself, you represent Jesus. This will help you have a better mentality when going to post something.

2. Thou shalt not go on rants about people, places or politics on social media.

Nothing good ever comes from posting rants – all you get is either angry people who agree with you, or angry people who disagree with you. Choose not to post rants on social media and maintain joy and peace on your profiles. Instead, talk to someone you trust to find support and wisdom.

3. Thou shalt not post things that harm the image of Jesus.

This is major – don't post things that could even slightly harm the image of Jesus. God made us in His image, so anything that demeans and disrespects people ignores God's images in them. If you represent Jesus, you have to think that through every time you post. The image of Jesus matters more than the world knowing your opinions.

4. Thou shalt not engage in hateful or aggressive debates on social media.

Social media debates are useless. Tone and attitude are nearly impossible to determine in the comments of a post. Having a healthy discussion with people about a subject is one thing – but debating with people isn't worth your time. There will always be someone who disagrees with you, choose not to entertain the people who are looking for a reaction.

5. Thou shalt not give God credit for your opinions and views.

Don't give God credit for things He doesn't say in His word. Don't take God's word out of context to fit your argument or opinion. If your opinion isn't helpful, uplifting or loving – don't post it! Definitely don't post it referencing Jesus.

6. Don't pretend to be someone else online.

Social media invites us to recreate the "perfect" version of ourselves, which we want others to see.

Instead of posting carefully filtered photos and idyllic content, look for ways to be yourself. Ask questions, encourage others, and look for ways to help others feel okay in their own skin. You don't have to share your deepest hurts or problems to seem "real" online.

7. Thou shalt not quote scripture to back up your hate speech.

I don't really have to go into this much. If you are going to be hateful – don't use scripture to back up your hate. If you aren't sharing and showing love on social media – then according to the Bible, you don't know God. Your job is to love.

8. Thou shalt not claim to be a follower of Jesus and post things that seem to ignore His Word.

Don't post about loving Jesus and going to church, then the next day post about going to a club, partying and getting drunk. Don't be holy in one post and hateful in the next. Be consistent. Everything you post, share and do should align with God's values and vision for life.

9. Before posting anything, thou shalt ask thyself the question: "Does this glorify God?"

Continually ask yourself the question "does this glorify God?" – if it doesn't, don't say it, don't do it, don't post it. You are a follower of Jesus; your social media account should glorify God – not yourself.

10. Thou shalt use social media to encourage and express the love of Jesus to all.

This is so important. There are so many opportunities to encourage each other, encourage non-believers and love people. Use your social media for good.

*Material was derived from Pastor Jim Mattix, Lead Pastor at North East Assembly of God, Fresno, Ca. Some ideas and concepts may have been changed or rearranged.