



COMMANDMENTS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

The greatest and best commandment

When some fairly significant people in the community asked Jesus what is the most important commandment, this was his reply:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

When using social media, consider how you can use it to love God and others in all situations!

1 You shall have no other gods.

We are to love, fear and trust God above all things, even social media ... God is more important than social media and spending time on Facebook!

2 You are not to take the name of the Lord your God, in vain – in other words, do not use God's name recklessly.

We should love, fear and trust God, so that when we write on social media, we don't say we are Christians and then curse others, swear, encourage witchcraft, lie or deceive by using God's name.

Instead, when we are on social media, we should call upon God whenever trouble happens, as well as praise and give thanks to him for everything good. We should also encourage others to do likewise.

3 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy – in other words, we should intentionally spend time with God in prayer, Bible study and worship, and encourage others to do the same.

We should love, fear and trust God so that we never reject or despise his word or its preaching, including when people are sharing God's word on social media. Instead, we benefit greatly when we regard God's word as holy. We can be glad to hear and read social media posts that share God's word.

4 Honour your father and your mother.

We are to love, fear and trust God so that we do not write things on social media that puts down, despises or angers our parents and any other authorities, even when we are angry with them! Instead, we should write things on social media that honour our parents and speak well of those in authority. Social media is a great opportunity for us to reveal to others how much we love our parents and value those in authority.

We should also take the time to help our parents learn and understand social media and other technologies. And when our parents say to get off social media or question us about something we have written, we listen to them!

5 You shall not kill!

We are to love, fear and trust God so that we do not use social media to destroy or push people to the breaking point where their lives are destroyed. We should not threaten, harm or hurt people in any way using social media; nor should we use it to hate or encourage

hatred of others. Instead, we should use social media to help people out, to be great friends with them, to protect them, and to make sure their physical needs are met.

6 You shall not commit adultery.

We should love, fear and trust God so that when using social media, we lead sexually pure and decent lives in what we say and do. This means that we don't use social media to cheat on our spouses or partners; we delete sexually-orientated posts; we don't share sexually-orientated posts; and we don't sexualise or degrade anyone else. Instead, we are to use social media to show that we love, honour and respect our spouses or anyone we have a relationship with.

7 You shall not steal.

We should love, fear and trust God so that on social media we don't take people's identities; save other people's pictures without their permission; pass off other people's ideas or posts as our own; or try to get money out of people in a dishonest way. Instead, we should use social media to help others improve their lives, including helping them improve their physical, financial and emotional wellbeing.

8 You shall not bear false witness against others.

We should love, fear and trust God so that in all our communication with others we do not tell lies about others, spread rumours or half-truths about them, betray them, slander them, or hurt their reputation in any way. Instead, we should defend others (especially their reputation), speak well of them, and explain everything they say and do in the kindest way. This also means when it comes to what others post on social media, we should talk about people's actions in the kindest way possible and share only those posts that enhance another person's reputation.

9 You shall not covet other people's house or property.

We should trust, fear and love God so that we live with a contented heart about the life God has given us so we are not jealous of what others have nor resent them having it. We especially do not scheme to get other people's inheritance or house or trick them out of their property and what God has given them, even if it is legal, but especially when it is illegal. Instead, we should serve others by helping them keep their house, property, and wealth and give thanks to God for not only what he has given us but also for what he has given others.

10 You shall not covet other people's spouses and partners, their servants, their employees, their livestock, their car and anything that belongs to them.

We are to trust, fear and love God so that we don't entice away, encourage disloyalty or force away another person's partner, employees, livestock, or anything else that belongs to them. Instead, especially when we are on social media, we should encourage people to remain loyal, to remain with their spouse/partner and employer, and to fulfil their responsibilities with joy and love.