

QUESTIONS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

John Edwards

According to the Datareportal April global overview, more than half of the world, 5.07 billion people, use social media. Social media has made some things socially acceptable today. There are some questions one would do well to consider before using social media.

1. **Are you minding your own business?** The Bible says, *“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you”* (1 Th. 4:11). The New King James says, *“...to mind your own business...”*. Are you minding your own affairs, attending to your own business, or are you minding other people’s business through social media? Does everybody really need to know where you are, who you are with, and what you are doing? I’m not that important — are you? Some can’t do anything without letting everyone know about it. Also, what gives you the right to take pictures of other people and post those to your social media page? If someone has invited you into their home for a birthday party or you’re on a trip with them, for example, what makes you think you need

to take pictures of them and post for all the world to see? If they want to tell about it, that’s one thing, but why do you feel the need to do that? It may be socially acceptable, but *is it right?* Social media has made it socially acceptable to make one’s own business everyone else’s business and everyone else’s business one’s own business.

2. **Are you a busybody in other men’s matters?** 1 Peter 4:15 talks about not being *“...a busybody in other men’s matters.”* Paul discussed *“busybodies”* in 2 Thessalonians 3:11 and 1 Timothy 5:13. Such are *“working not”, “idle”, “wandering about from house to house”, “tattlers”, “speaking things which they ought not”*. W.E. Vine, in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, defines *“busybody”* in this way: *“to be working round about, instead of at one’s own business, signifies to take more pains than enough about a thing, to waste one’s labour, to be meddling with, or bustling about, other people’s matters....some who are not busied in their own business, but are overbusied in that of others.”* Some are gossips, talking about things not proper to mention.

3. **Are you letting your words be few?** There is wisdom

in refraining your lips (Prov. 10:19). Wisdom literature teaches, *“...let thy words be few”* (Eccl. 5:2). Are you abiding by this divine principle, on social media? If a picture is worth a thousand words, how many words have you spoken today through pictures you have posted?

4. **Are you redeeming the time?** Ever wonder where the time has gone? An average user spends 2 hours and 31 minutes daily on social media, we are told. The average lifespan is 29,200 days. That equates to the average social media user spending about 2,810 days, or 7.69 years of his life, on social media. Is this healthy? The Scriptures teach, *“Redeeming the time”* (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). Joseph Henry Thayer, in his Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, suggests the meaning *“to make a wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well-doing are as it were the purchase-money by which we make the time our own”*. How much time is spent daily in prayer, in Bible reading and study, in meditation, in pursuit of spiritual activities? Are we making wise use of the time God has given us? *“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”* (Ps. 90:12).

Think about it.

TEMPORARY THINGS

Nicolas Edwards

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18). In this text, temporal or temporary things are contrasted with eternal. Let’s look at some temporary things in the Bible.

THE LAW OF MOSES. The old law given by God through Moses to the nation of Israel was *“Added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made...”* (Gal. 3:19). The seed is identified in Galatians 3:16 as Christ. Thus, the old law was temporary — till Christ. When Christ came, He *“took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross”* (Col. 2:14). Today, we are under the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).

THE APOSTLES. We have some people claiming to be apostles today. Some suggest apostles continue today. What they fail to recognize is the Scriptures teach the apostles were temporary. The apostles

were specific disciples chosen by the Lord whom He named apostles (Lk. 6:13). The original 12 apostles the Lord chose are listed in Luke 6:13-16. Judas Iscariot was a traitor. He by transgression fell and was replaced by Mathias, whom the Lord chose (Acts 1:23-26). Paul was an apostle (1 Cor. 15:8-10). This gives us a total of 14 apostles revealed in Scripture. For one to be an apostle, he had to have been with the Lord, be a witness of His resurrection, and be chosen by the Lord (Acts 1:21-24). Paul said the Lord was seen of him last of all (1 Cor. 15:8). Since there are no more witnesses after Paul, it is impossible for there to be apostles today.

THE REIGN OF CHRIST.

“Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death”(1 Cor. 15:24-26). As long as men continue to die, the Lord will reign. When the end comes and the resurrection takes place, death will be destroyed

and the Lord will give up His reign being subject unto God.

MAN’S LIFE ON EARTH.

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (Jas. 4:14).

THE EARTH. *“...The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”* (2 Pet. 3:10). This will occur when the Lord returns.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS. The nine spiritual gifts identified in 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 were till that which is perfect is come (1 Cor. 13:8-10). This is not speaking of Christ, but of complete revelation. Now that we have the *“perfect law of liberty”* (Jas. 1:25), complete divine revelation, these spiritual gifts have been done away (1 Cor. 13:10).

Since our earthly life is temporary and after this the judgment (Heb. 9:27), we need to make ready by hearing, believing and obeying the gospel.

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