

## Social Media – Be Slow to Speak

One of the most whimsical moments in life is jumping into a wave and riding it back to shore. Conversely, one of the scariest moments is when a wave pulls you away from shore. The unsettled feeling of waves collapsing upon you as you grasp for air. This is the beautiful yet tragic reality of living in a world made by a loving God that has been marred by sin.

As we watch history unfold before our eyes it is startling to see the unrest in the world. It is disorienting like being caught in a wave trying to gain a sense of what is safe to say and who it is safe to say it to. People proudly proclaim they're right on social media while everyone who disagrees is guilty of ignorance.



The initial passage that rang in my head was James 1:19...that we ought to be “quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” I’ve found it helpful to process the cultural dilemmas around me through personal relationship via one-on-one phone calls. I’ve reached out to my black friends, my friends who are cops, and my white friends who minister in minority communities. This has been a space where clarifying questions can be asked and complex issues can be addressed with greater nuance.

Facebook was created for college students to share pictures. Anyone who is spending extended time there scrolling, clicking, commenting, venting and so forth will find themselves drifting towards an extreme and becoming entrenched there. To paraphrase Ecclesiastes 7:18, “The person who fears God will avoid all extremes.” In order to swim upstream in our culture and to be faithful to our commission we must not blindly go down the rabbit hole of crusading on social media.

Jesus taught us the Golden Rule, “Treat others the way you want to be treated.” The “Rule” of our age is to “Treat others the way they want to be treated.” We won’t always succeed at the former, but we can only fail at the latter. We must not allow the unwritten rules of culture to dictate how we engage in relationship, but we mustn’t disobey our Lord either. Remember that James tells us to be *slow* to speak...that’s different than being silent. James tells us to be slow to anger and Paul clarifies that when we are angry then we should be so without sinning (Ephesians 4:26).

The world feels like a visceral place right now which can cause us to grow weary in our labor as Gospel workers during the Harvest. Charles Spurgeon said it this way in his sermon *Everybody’s Sermon*, “Now it struck me that God is every day preaching to us by similitudes...Providence is God's sermon.” The Lord is speaking to us in these days...don’t miss it. Pray, walk in the Spirit, allow His Word to be a lamp unto your path and know that it is not by coincidence that you are ministering in this age while we anticipate the age to come.

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