

## **SOCIAL MEDIA EXHORTATION**

As a leadership we have felt urged to bring some advice on our use of social media in these fragile days we are living in. We have encouraged our church body with these words below before but feel in light of the sensitive nature of current events we thought this would be a helpful reminder for all of us.

If harnessed properly, social media can be a tremendous and effective form of communication for the Kingdom. However, in light of the sensitive and potentially volatile nature of many topics politically, socially and morally in our culture today, we felt led as an eldership to exhort our church members to be wise as serpents and as sensitive as doves regarding the content of our online posts.

Essentially, we want to ask ourselves the question, 'How do we follow the Jesus-way in our social media presence? How do we communicate His heart and tone through these channels? How do we stand for truth through our social media presence but in the way Jesus would?'

While we all want to feel free to speak up for what we believe is in line with God's ideal for humanity, we also want to be sensitive to those who are not believers and therefore do not share our value systems. We don't want them to feel the church is against them, but rather working in the mess of our world to see redemption and beauty. Unfortunately, it can be tricky to show this through social media forms. We feel strongly that we aren't going to change hearts by pushing faceless opinions on social media but rather by prayerful intercession.

We feel we are being called by God to trust Him to vindicate rather than seeking to win arguments. If you are in any doubt whether or not you should post something, we would suggest maybe don't...!! Instead, turn your frustration, angst, and reaction to prayer. Let's be slow to speak and quick to pray in this season. We believe in these incredibly unsettling days we are being called to search our own hearts with diligence and intention; there is a deep work of repentance we sense God is calling us all to, rooting out our own sins, the things we have tolerated as the Bride of Christ, and the generational sins of our nation which have been seeded in us without us even realising sometimes. This humble and prayerful response we believe is not just wise but a sign of our trust in God over and above our own opinions, and a recognition that our wrestle is not actually against flesh and blood but against 'principalities and powers'.

God is calling us as a people in these days to look to Him and Him alone; there are battles we must certainly fight but we must also realise that we dare not assume a position of moral high ground on any issues, rather serve with compassion, grace, truth and prayerful discernment.

The world is unravelling in front of us in these days as everything that can be shaken is (Heb 12:27), but we trust in a King and a Kingdom that cannot be shaken! Let us hold ourselves and one another to that incredible truth.

Lord, let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done.