**10 COMMANDMENTS FOR POSTING ONLINE** *by Aaron Diestelkamp*

**1** Thou shalt not share something, even a meme, without checking its source. Citing your sources is a friend to the wise and snare to the foolish.

**2** Thou shalt not say, “I don’t know if this is true, I’m just sharing it because it is interesting.” Thou shalt not hedge. You must share things that are both interesting and true to the best of your ability.

**3** Thou shalt not respond with rudeness even when others are rude to you. A rude response begets another, but a kind response restores a friend.

**4** Thou shalt not use sarcasm to try to “make a point.” Shooting straight is best. Sarcasm makes crooked the path to your point.

**5** Thou shalt not insult another person’s intelligence. Thou shalt not insult another person at all. Why do you post to persuade your friends who need no persuading? Post to persuade your enemies and to thereby gain more friends.

**6** Thou shalt not respond to snarkiness in kind. Treat others with compassion, and their snarkiness will be turned back on itself.

**7** Thou shalt not go silent when you are proven wrong. Confess when you are wrong and seek to correct your misstatements so that your mistake isn’t shared by others.

**8** Thou shalt not assume the worst when reading another person’s posts. Read others’ posts like you would want people to read your posts.

**9** Thou shalt show grace when people misread your posts as you would want others to show grace to you when you misunderstand them.

**10** Thou shalt not gossip in a comments thread as if the people you disagree with aren’t there. Thou shalt not gossip in a private conversation about someone who isn’t there. Thou shalt not gossip at all. If you must talk about your enemies, talk about them as if they were your friends. Love your enemies.

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