

## Transcript – Coming Out of the World of Social Media – Elder Eric

Chag Sameach. It's great to be here with all of you and I hoped you enjoyed the old walk or the Old City walk. A lot of great things to see, we have a lot still to come. And I'm going to be going over a message today on *Coming Out of the World, Social Media*.

So, we're in a time where we know it's short and we should be striving to make our garments white. And one of these spots and blemishes that you could still have today if you're on social media, is social media. It's one of those things that will cause you to miss out on the kingdom. And I'm going to go over some things that are startling.

Social media is relatively new for our time. It just started up in 1997, Facebook being what we know today is grown to be the most popular of the sites, but it's relatively new. So, but it's just like watching movies, listening to unholy music, things like that, that we shouldn't be doing. This is one of those things to keep away from.

And it's not just about Facebook. Facebook will come and go like Myspace before it, and now they're saying that Instagram is the new up and coming biggest social media site. So, when I talk about social media, I'm talking about Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, you know and all those, etc. But I first want to go over with you some statistics that are **appalling**.

3.196 billion people, close to half the world's population, use online social media, and that's almost half of the world's population. And this is a 13% increase from the past year. People are spending an average of two hours a day sharing, liking, tweeting, and updating on these platforms. That breaks down to around half a million tweets on Twitter, and Snapchat photos shared every minute, 500 million Snapchat photos shared. 210 million people are estimated to suffer from internet and social media addictions. Social media has overtaken porn as the number one activity on the internet. 95 million photos are uploaded to Instagram each day. Wow. Instagram has 500 million daily active users. Facebook collects over 500 terabytes of data every day.

And you know what they're doing with all that data, right? They're making these big warehouses, storing all this information. And you know what they're going to use it for? They're using it for the system of the beast. And you may say, "Oh, but they already have all my information." Well, they have **everything** about you on this. And this is just another way of them having information about you. So ...

81% of parents report that their children start using Facebook between the ages of 8 and 13. Wow. 23% of Facebook users check their account five or more times every day, with over 240 million Americans checking Facebook daily. That's 75% of the population. One-third of Facebook's ages 18 to 34 female demographic check Facebook when they first wake up, even before going to the bathroom. They even sleep ... there's a study that shows that most people sleep with their smartphones when they go to bed. 18 to 24 year olds on Facebook have 510 friends on average. And one out of every seven minutes spent online is on Facebook.

I now want to go into an article. And this is coming from top executives in Facebook. So, and some of them are the founders of it. This is from Chamath Palihapitiya.

He joined Facebook in 2007. He became the vice president for the user growth. He said, "I think we have created tools that are ripping apart the social fabric of how society works. Social media creates a social validation feedback loop by giving people a little dopamine hit every once in a while, because someone liked or commented on a photo, or a post, or whatever. The short-term dopamine driven feedback loops we've created are destroying how society works. No civil discourse, no cooperation, misinformation, mistruth. And it's not an American problem, this is a **worldwide problem**."

So, in other words, he's saying it's destroying relationships, how people build relationships. This is from Sean Parker, the first president of Facebook.

He said, "If the thought process that went into building these applications, with Facebook being the first of them, to really understand it, that process was all about how do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible. And that means we need to give you a little sort of dopamine hit every once in a while, because someone liked or commented on a photo, or a post, or whatever. And that is going to get you to contribute more content, and that's going to get you, you know, more likes and comments. It's a social validation feedback loop. And that's exactly the kind of thing that a hacker like myself would come up with because you are exploiting the vulnerability in human psychology. And I think the inventors, creators, it's me, it's Mark Zuckerberg, it's Kevin Systrom with Instagram, it's all these people who understood this consciously and we did it anyway."

Chamath Palihapitiya continues, "I feel tremendous guilt. I think we all knew it back in the back of our minds, even though we feigned this whole line of like, "They're probably aren't any bad unintended consequences." But I think in the back deep, deep recesses of our minds, we kind of knew something bad could happen. But I think the way we defined it, it was not like this."

He went on to explain that this is. "So, we are in a really bad state of affairs right now. In my opinion, it is eroding the core foundation of how people behave by and between each other. And I don't have a good solution. My solution is, I just don't use these tools anymore, I haven't for years." He also said he doesn't use social media because he innately didn't want to get programmed. As for his kids, they're not allowed to use it. He also said he doesn't use social media because, or he said "Your behaviors, you don't realize it, but **you're being programmed.**"

Do I even have to go any further about social media? I mean, this is coming from the people themselves, the creators. It's not hidden anymore. It's not this great conspiracy that you can't find information about it. They're coming out with it in the open, and what are we going to do about it?

So, we know they're programming the minds of the people and it's addicting. And we know any addiction is idolatry. It's no different than someone who's on drugs or alcohol. You're addicted to something, you're putting that before Yahweh, and that's an idol.

And this is really scary. They're saying that this has become the societal norm. This is normal. This is going to be normal, with all these children that are growing up, this is all they know. And then their children, the next generation, that's all they're going to grow up in. All the old-timers passing away, that's the end of the ones that won't really use it anymore. And really the only people that are not going to be using it will be the serious believers, and that's it. This is really scary. And already almost everyone is on it already. So, we really need to think about what we're doing.

For a first-fruit covenant believer, we should know better. People who have Yahweh's spirit, it should grieve you to your soul when you're on that stuff. It's no different than going into a bar and feeling uncomfortable. It's the same thing. Do you love Yahweh or do you love this world? This is clearly from this world.

Satan has inspired these people to program the society, and they're programming the minds of everybody to ... We're going all the way back to the time of the tower of Babel, where Satan used Nimrod's Babel to bring everybody to one lip. And you know what that was all about. It was an act of rebellion. Yahweh said to be fruitful, multiply, He said it twice. He said it also to Noah and his family, to spread out and to fill the land. And what did they do? "No, we're going to go, we're

going to do our own thing. We want to be united.” They said, as the Scripture says, that they were *one, united with one lip*. And Yahweh even said “What they’re purposing to do, nothing is going to be restrained from them, to do it.”

And that's what's happening again. Satan is creating this, he's using the internet to propagate it, and he's using social media as the avenue to infect everybody's minds to his mind. The mind of Satan or do we want the mind of Messiah? We have to choose. So, we can't have one foot in the world and say you have a relationship with Yahweh. You have to choose one or the other.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians ... Well, let's go to 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15 through 17. I'm going to go quickly for the sake of time. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15 through 17.

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-17** *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, because all that which is in the world: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and its lust. But the one doing the will of Elohim abides forever.*

So that's what all of social media promotes: lust, covetousness, jealousy, addiction, which is idolatry, pride. It's all arrogance. It's all about you wanting to have the most likes, you wanting to have a better profile than someone else, comparing yourself to others. That's not of Yahweh. And this system defiles you when you're on it. It's defiling. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:33.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:33** *Do not let be led astray; bad companionships ruin good habits.*

So, this verse can actually read ... Well, you have the Greek word for *bad* is **Kakos** which also can mean *evil*. And then the other word for *companionships* is **Homiliai** which can also mean *communication*. So, this verse can also read *evil communication through its good habits*.

And I really didn't know anything about social media. I've never been on it, but just to see what was on it ... I was appalled. I was surprised but I have to say it was ... I was disgusted. I mean, it's like going into a website that has false doctrine and then, by accident, and then you know the sick feeling that you have that you just looked at something that is not of Yahweh, that's not of the truth, and just feeling sick to your soul. That's the way I felt.

What I saw on there, nothing but arrogance, pride, evil speaking, opinions about **everything**, criticism, criticizing **everything**, no respect for authority, not even for the president, not for anybody in high office. And it's just really bad. And it's no different than watching the rated-R movie full of murder and adultery and lust and all those things. That's what all this stuff promotes, all the attitudes of Satan, the power of the airwaves. And that's what he's doing: infiltrating the minds of everyone to be influenced with his mind.

And you may be there and saying, “Well it doesn't affect me. I'm not being influenced by it.” It is, and just like the scripture says, **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:12**, *he who thinks he stands, beware lest he fall*. So don't think that you're greater than any of these things. We know Satan's devices, he's greater, he's a spirit being. And we have to do everything in our power to make sure that we guard ourselves. And this is one of the things we need to guard ourselves from.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14 through 18. Yahshua said that we would be in the world, but He said to not be of it. So, no mixing. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14 through 18.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14** *Do not unite in marriage with unbelievers. For what partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what fellowship does light have with darkness?*

**Comment:** We should have **no fellowship** with darkness. There should not be any. The only real fellowship we have is with Yahweh and Yahshua. We fellowship with Them because we have a love of the truth, and we fellowship with each

other because each of us have His Spirit in us. And that's the only reason that we're here today, we have a love for His truth. And this is not a social club, we're not here to socialize. This is real family relationship. And you build real family relationships with meeting each other face to face.

So, one person asked me, "Why are you not on Facebook?" And I said, "Because I meet with my friends face to face." Having an online relationship with someone is not a relationship. It's not, it's unnatural. And just like the guy said, it's breaking down the fabric of society. Society can't last much longer with this. Continuing:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:15** *And what agreement does the Messiah have with Satan? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?*

**Comment:** And who are your friends on these sites? Our relationships ... we should be having relationships with the family of Yahweh. Those are the relationships we should have. Yes, we do have other relationships with our relatives that are not believers, but we have to keep those relationships even with them to a minimum. And our main relationship we have is with each other, and that's who we should be spending the most time with.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:16-17** *And what harmony has the sanctuary of Elohim with idols? ... verse 16 ... For you are the sanctuary of the living Elohim, even as it is said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people." ... Do we want to be the people of Yahweh or not? ... Because of this, "Come out from among them and be separated, says YAHWEH, and do not touch the unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

**Comment:** So, this is a roadmap that Yahweh is giving us now in these end times to get to Him, to come to Him. We have to stay away from this stuff. It is unholy and it's going to defile you. Haggai asked the priest, "If something that is holy touches something that is not, does that thing make it holy?" He said "No." Then he asked, "Well, what about if something that is unclean touches something holy?" He said, "It becomes unclean." So, it is going to defile you. You're not going to win anybody over using that. It's just going to defile you; it's going to influence you for the bad. 18:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:18** *"And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says YAHWEH Almighty."*

So, let's look at what we should be doing. Romans 12:1 ... Oh Romans 12:2. So just like one of the top executives in Facebook said, you just got to come out of it completely if you want to get out of it. Just like someone who has to break alcohol addiction or drugs, you got to come out of it cold turkey. You got to just put it out.

And we have something greater than anybody else. We have Yahshua. By His strength, we can do all things and it's not impossible. Yes, many have tried to get off of social media and have not been able to, but we have Yahshua to help us. So, we have something going for us that not many have and we should take advantage of it. It says, verse 2:

**Romans 12:2** *And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is the good and pleasing and perfect will of Elohim.*

We have to be transforming our mind from all of this junk, the mind of Satan to the mind of Messiah. How do you do that? Spending time with Him, you have to nurture the Spirit, you have to spend time. And tithe is not just a principle for money, it also involves time. And we should be spending a minimum of two and a half hours a day with Him, reading, praying, meditating, and just spending time with Him.

And we need to get ourselves, our mind off of ourselves. We need to be serving people. There's so many out there that are in need of hope and that are in need of Yahweh's love. And you could show that to them. Go volunteer at homeless shelters, orphanages, prisons, go into the streets, getting the mind off of yourself and serving others. That's how we should be spending our time. Scripture says in **Ephesians 5:16**, *to redeem the time, for the days are evil*. And we can

redeem the time. But we redeem the time by doing Yahweh's will, by serving Him, serving the kingdom, and bearing fruit, getting our mind off of ourselves.

And if you like communicating with people, email! Email, you could write letters to brethren. You don't know how many brethren are by themselves. They don't have a local congregation and they need that support, they need that encouragement. And you could be doing such a great ... that's such a great ministry to help brethren who are by themselves. So many that I hear from, "Oh, I'm by myself, I don't have any fellowship." Well, we can be helping them. And that's a great ministry to do.

So, to wrap things up, we need to get out of social media, keep away from it. We need to instead be spending time with Yahweh. And we know that spending time, even with our families ... because it's not enough that Satan has taken away the mother out of the home, and then he takes, he demotes the father's role in the home. He brings in homosexuality and now taking the children, I mean, at a young early age, and brainwashing them with this stuff. They're being programmed, just like they're saying, and we got to get out of this.

So, it's not too late. There's still time, but you got to act now. And Yahweh has given us plenty of time; His grace, His patience is so awesome. And we need to do as much as we can now to make the most of this time. Get out of it and make our garments white. Prepare for the kingdom, it's coming soon. Yahshua is coming soon and His reward is with Him. So, let's be preparing for that, building the mind of Messiah, spending the time with each other and the relationships that we really need to be spending time with, not in these false relationships that will not do you any good.

So, I pray that this has helped everyone that's listening and Chag Sameach.