

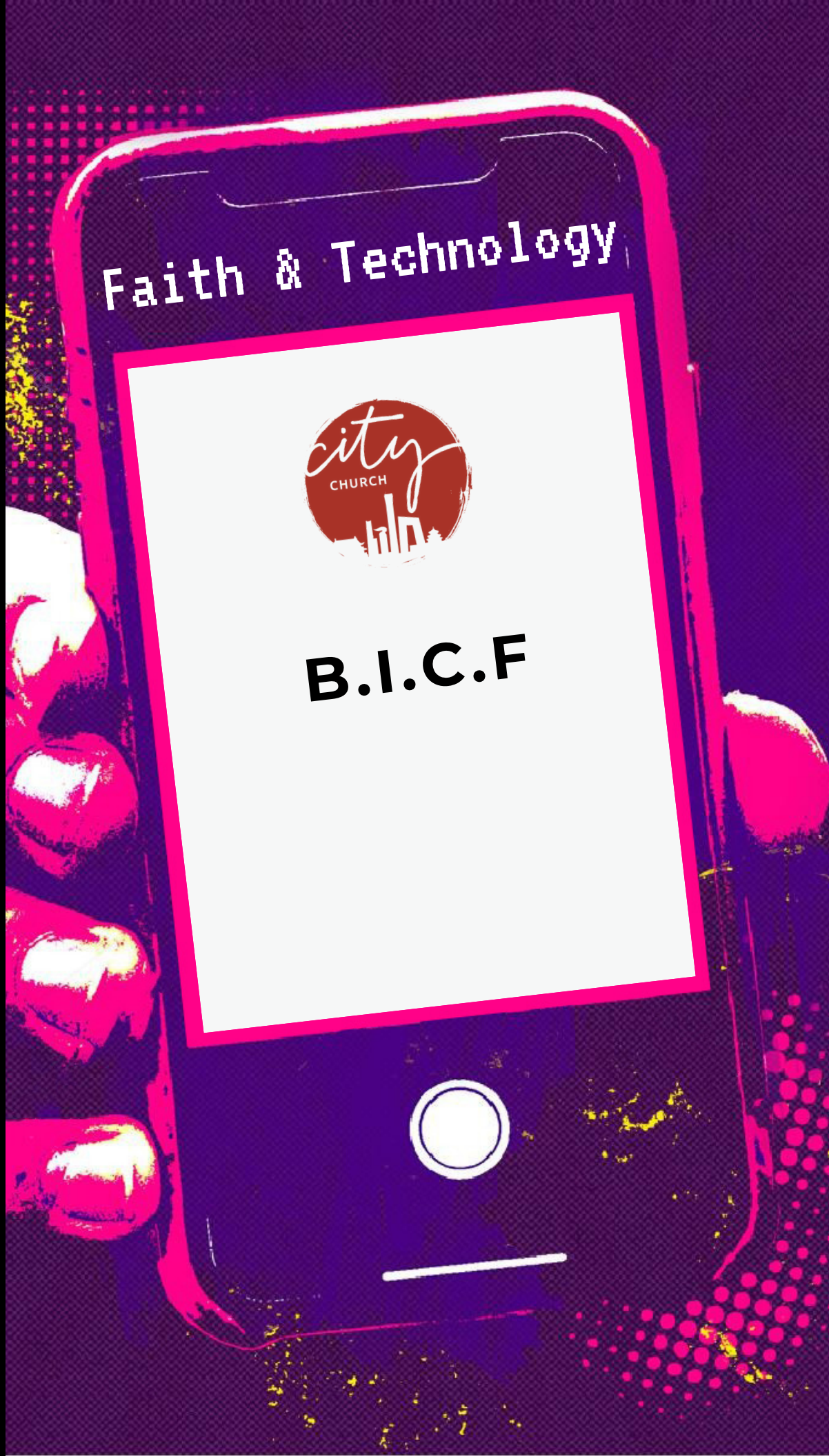


A SERIES ON TECHNOLOGY

May 29

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Jun 19



FAITH & TECHNOLOGY

A STUDY

on technology

May 29 - June 19

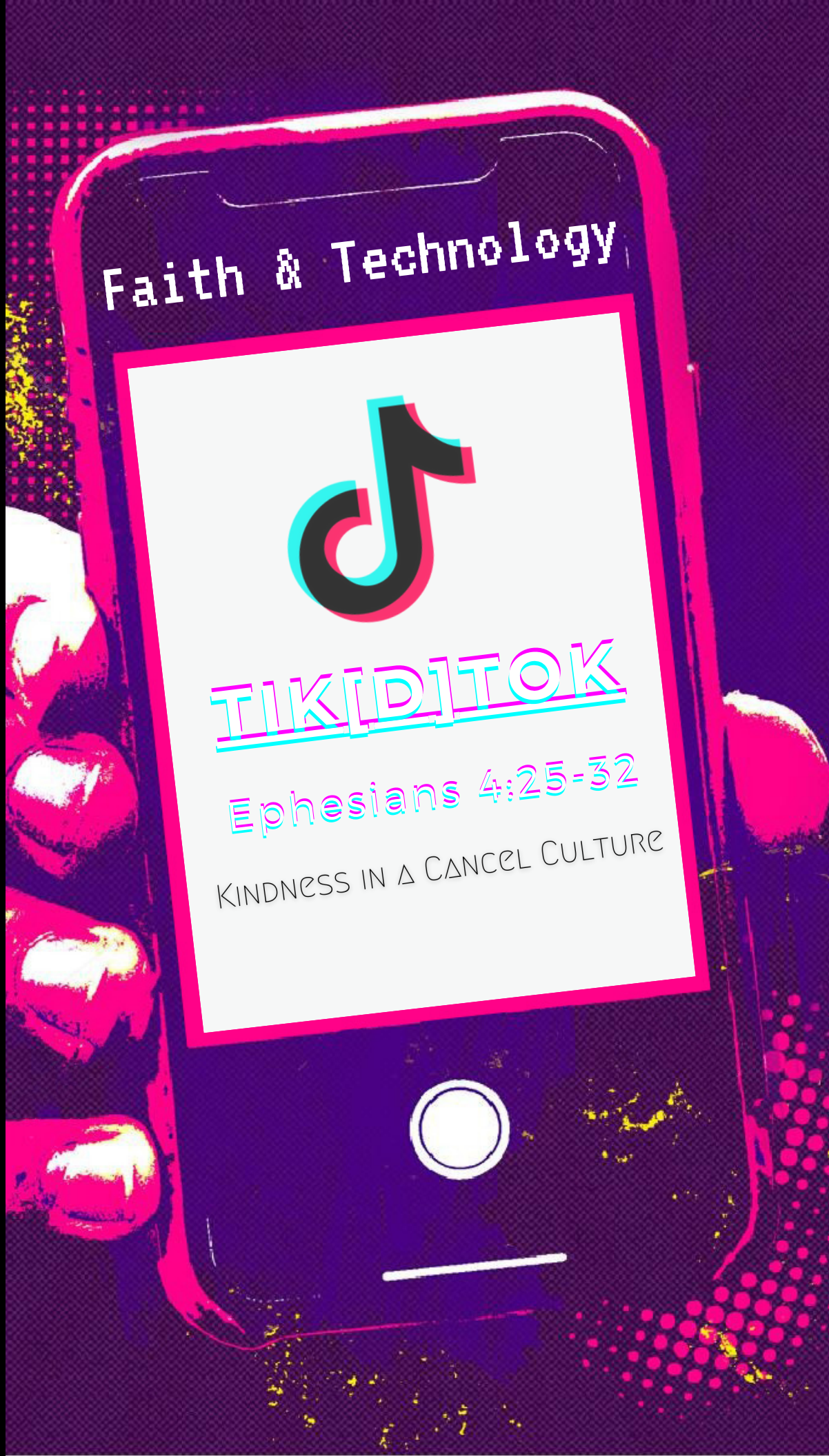
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Written by TJ Johnson

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A SERIES ON TECHNOLOGY

May 29



Kindness in a Cancel Culture

Ephesians 4:25-32

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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# Kindness in a Cancel Culture

J.K. Rowling once said, “Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.” It’s true; words are powerful. In fact, they’re so powerful that James 3 reminds us, “Every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue.” As we begin a new series on Technology and the Bible, there are some very serious questions we as Christians should be asking about how modern technology might be influencing our words.

Have tweets made us short and to the point in how we talk to one another? Have we lost the art of the front porch conversation? Has the barrage of notifications to cell phones constantly in our hands made us poor listeners and therefore poor communicators? Have screens and avatars caused us to lose sight of the fact that our harsh online comments are to real flesh and blood people made in God’s image? Have memes and pithy one-liners caused us to lose the art of logic? Has moving from encyclopedias to Wikipedia and from college professors to YouTube celebrities caused us to lose the art of discernment in what we see and hear and what we repeat? Has the slow fade of what’s morally acceptable on TV and movies and the fast, easy, and unfiltered access to crude language on the internet desensitized us to language we should not be associated with? Have we become the proverbial frog in the boiling pot? Have the algorithms that constantly feed us only news articles and posts that we agree with completely erased from our daily lives those who are vastly different from us, thus creating a new type of tribalism? Have we forgotten how to talk with people that are radically different from us? Has the like button and record keeping of how many times a post is shared hindered us from being honest about difficult subjects because we, like the authorities in John 12, love the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God?

I think the answer, to some extent, is YES! Like words, technology has been used for good and evil and it has most certainly influenced how we use our words. Join us this Sunday as we dive into Ephesians 4, to see how we can use our words to the glory of God.

In Him,  
Ps TJ



*Speak the truth*

## Discussion Questions

1. Make a list of your most used technology and then give examples of how it can be used for good or evil.
2. Using the pattern described in Ephesians 4 (Take off the vice and put on the virtue because of this value), share with the group the three main points from the sermon. Are there any other patterns found in Ephesians 4 that were not mentioned?
3. Read Ephesians 4:25. What are some ways people can struggle with online falsehood and how does that manifest in our personal relationships? (get the group to think about themselves as well. Which of the listed items are they most tempted with?)
4. What are some ways we can be intentional about using technology to speak truth?
5. In what ways does our love for the church empower us to speak truth rather than falsehood?
6. Read Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32. What is the difference between godly anger and sinful anger? In what ways have you seen each expressed online?
7. Is technology itself ever a source of your anger? If so, explain.



*Speak the truth*

## Discussion Questions

8. How would you biblically counsel someone who is struggling with bitterness?
9. Define slander and give examples of how we can use technology to slander.
10. How can we as Christians be marked by kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness in our online interactions.
11. In what ways does sinful anger give an opportunity to Satan?
12. Read Ephesians 4:29-30; 5:4. The sermon describes corrupt talk as filthiness, foolishness, and crudeness. Take some time to clearly define each one with examples.
13. In what ways has technology contributed to the above three vices and how can we as Christians protect ourselves from its influence?
14. What are the three virtues that counteract corrupt talk and how can we use technology to do these more and more?
15. In what ways does corrupt talk grieve the Holy Spirit?
16. Are there any new habits you need to form with technology in order to better glorify God and love your neighbor with your word?





*Speak the truth*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



A SERIES ON TECHNOLOGY

**June 5**



# Authentic Relationships in an Artificial Age

2 John 1:12

12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

Ruth 1: 15-18

15 And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

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Authentic Relationships in an Artificial Age

Technology is in many ways a paradox. It is akin to Charles Dickens' opening line in *The Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Through technology, the world has been brought closer together than in any other era of history. In a few seconds I can video call my dad who is located on the other side of the world or log into a zoom call and instantaneously be connected with five hundred people or have a gift hand delivered to your door.

And yet, through technology the world has been driven further apart than any other era in history. We sit next to family members in silence as we are glued to our devices. We ride on family vacations, each person listening to their own personalized set list while ear buds create a barrier between the ones we are physically closest to. We have thousands of followers or subscribers on our "social" media accounts, but don't actually know what is going on in their day to day lives.

This week we will look at the Biblical command to love one another and technology's impact on our relationships. If John was alive today, perhaps he would admonish us, "Little children, let us not love in emojis or like buttons only, but in physical presence and audible words."

In this age of technology and shutdowns across the city, I have never more resonated with John's closing remarks in 3 John: I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

Longing for physical gatherings,
Ps TJ



See you face to face

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does technology tempt us to isolate ourselves from one another?
2. In what ways do Ruth and the rest of the Bible prioritize physical presence?
3. What are some ways you can use technology as an initiating space that leads to human connection this week?
4. In what ways does technology tempt us to insulate ourselves from those who are vastly different from us?
5. In what ways do Ruth and the rest of the Bible prioritize diversity in our relationships?
6. What are some ways you can use technology this week to form and foster diversity in your friendships?
7. In what ways does technology tempt us to make the world (including our friendships) serve only our wants, needs, and desires?
8. In what ways do Ruth and the rest of the Bible prioritize sacrificial friendships rather than self-serving friendships?
9. What are some ways you can use technology this week to sacrificially love a friend?



See you face to face

Discussion Questions

10. In what ways does technology tempt us to devalue, downplay, and avoid the average, non-dopamine inducing moments of life?
11. In what ways do Ruth and the rest of the Bible prioritize the slow ordinary moments with friends?
12. What are some ways you can use technology this week to appreciate and engage in the average, non-dopamine inducing moments of life?
13. Is there anything you need to change about your daily technology usage in order to better foster Biblical friendships?



See you face to face

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



A SERIES ON TECHNOLOGY

June 12



Moderation in an Age of Indulgence

1 Corinthians 6: 9-20

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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# Moderation in an Age of Indulgence

When it comes to our interaction with technology, 1 Corinthians gives us three very practical questions to ask ourselves.

Firstly, is how I use technology actually helpful to me or hurtful (1 Corinthians 6:12a)?  
Secondly, is how I use technology dominating or serving me? (1 Corinthians 6:12b)?  
Thirdly, is how I use technology building up or destroying others around me (1 Corinthians 10:23)?

How we use technology is no small matter. As 1 Corinthians 6 reminds us, “we are not our own, we were bought with a price.” Therefore we must be vigilant to put proper boundaries on our technology usage in order to keep Jesus at the center of all.

I am looking forward to seeing you this Sunday.

In Him,

Pastor TJ





*Glorify God*

## Discussion Questions

1. As a group create a list of behavioral addictions. In relation to technology, which do you think our society struggles with the most and why?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9. What deception toward sin is Paul most likely referencing?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. In what ways has technology made the practice of sins easily accessible?
4. What are some ways we can justify our sins of technology by comparing it to “worse” sins and how does this passage speak against such justification?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 6:11. What is the importance of the past tense verbs in this verse and how should that encourage those who are struggling with technology addictions?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23. What is the context of the phrase, “All things are lawful for me,” and how does Paul correct this thinking?

*Note: be sure to discuss the moral sin of visiting prostitutes and the non-moral situation of eating meat sacrificed to idols. It's not just our sinful actions through technology, but even our neutral actions must be brought under submission to Jesus' Lordship.*



*Glorify God*

## Discussion Questions

7. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12a and give some examples where our relationship with technology is not helpful (build up) but harmful.

8. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12b, 7:23 and discuss ways in which our relationship with technology might show the world our allegiance is to someone or something else other than Jesus Christ.

9. What are some practical tips you can share with the group that has helped you ensure you are not dominated by technology?

10. How can we incorporate those tips into our own lives without becoming legalistic?

*Note: Two things to consider: continue to focus on Jesus and trust Him rather than the means of grace, boundaries you create are meant to be for yourself not for others. Legalism is creating extra-biblical rules and trying to make it a law for all.*

11. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Take some time to remind one another what Jesus accomplished on the cross and how His work empowers us to have victory today over sin.



*Glorify God*

## Prayer & Praise

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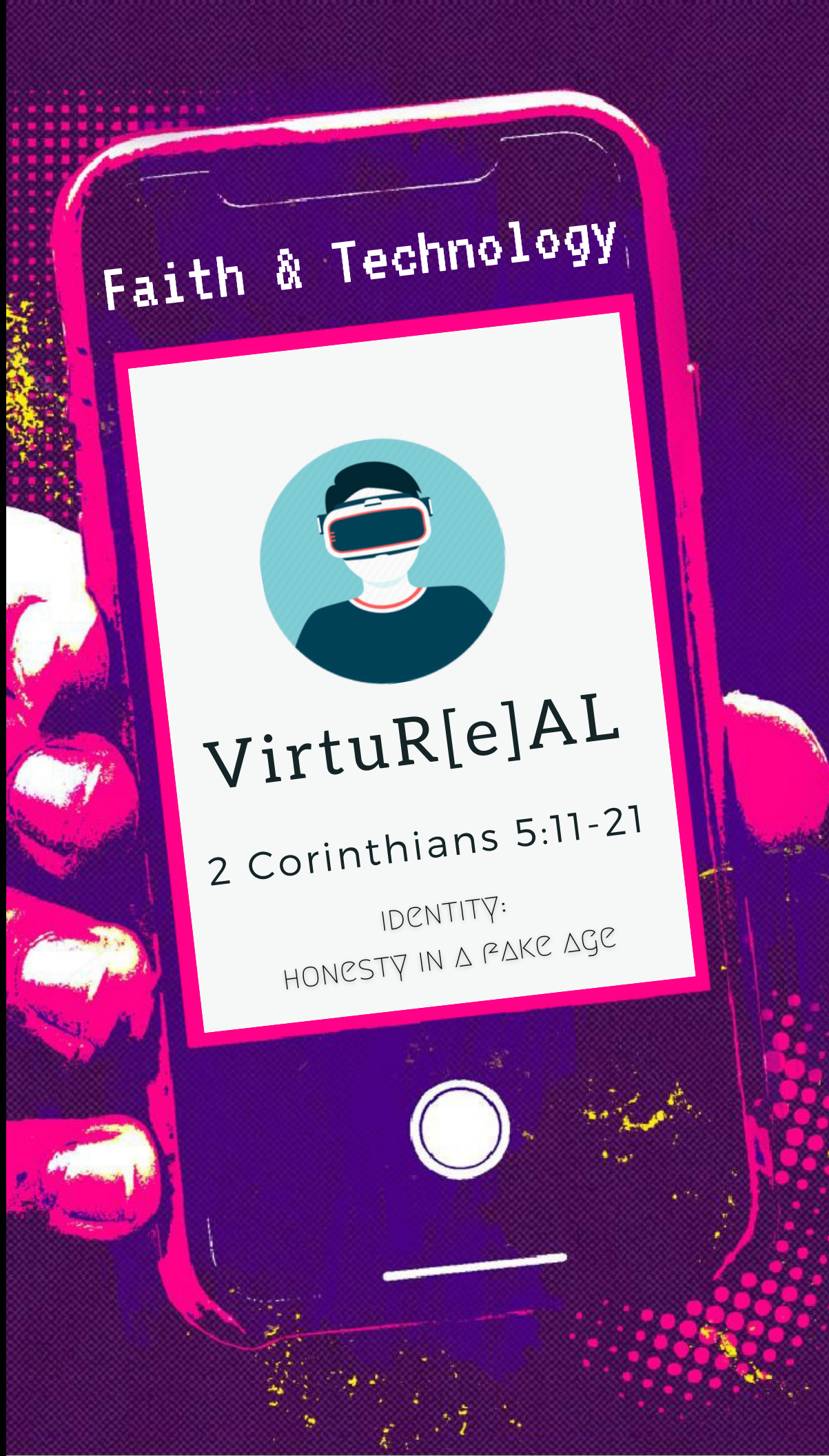
### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



A SERIES ON TECHNOLOGY

**June 19**



# Identity: Honesty in a Fake Age

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Identity: Honesty in a Fake Age

Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, WeChat, Marco Polo, DingTalk, Twitter and Gaming are just some ways billions of people connect to the virtual world. Sometimes we may use several different apps at once for personal or professional use. Many are so engrossed in the virtual world that they lose track of reality and neglect their responsibilities. In essence, we create gods out of our virtual world.

When believers spend more time on items that take them away from God, they cannot focus on maintaining and creating new relationships. We create a world where likes, emojis, photos, and communication online become our alternate world. We begin to reduce our identity to how we are perceived.

God wants us to build authentic and strong relationships with Him, our family, fellow believers, and people. The virtual world has its place, but not above God or other human relationships (Romans 12:9-10).

In Him,

Rico Corporal



New creation

Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. What is reconciliation? Give examples where you have seen it done poorly and well.
2. Why is it important for believers to be reconciled?
3. How can the virtual world become a god in our lives?
4. What are some ways people use social media to hide who they truly are and why do they do so?
5. What are some cultural identities social media tries to mold us into and how do they go about doing so?
6. What can a believer do to ensure their identity is in Christ and not popular culture of the day?
7. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 1 Peter 4:8. Why does God want His children to have good relationships with one another?
8. Why is it important to God to express His thoughts to the believers?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23. Give examples of how believers can use social media responsibly?
10. Read Roman 12:10 and Ephesians 4:29. What are some examples of believers building relationships within the community (church, family)?



New creation

Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports