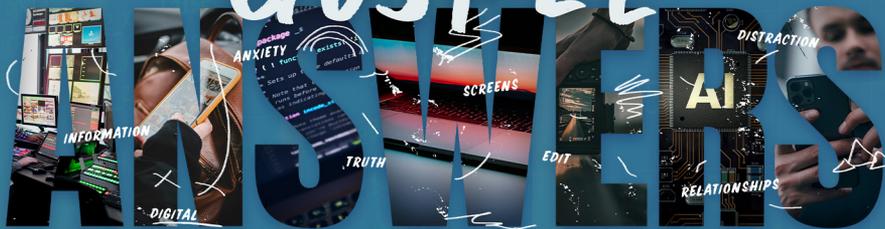


# GOSPEL



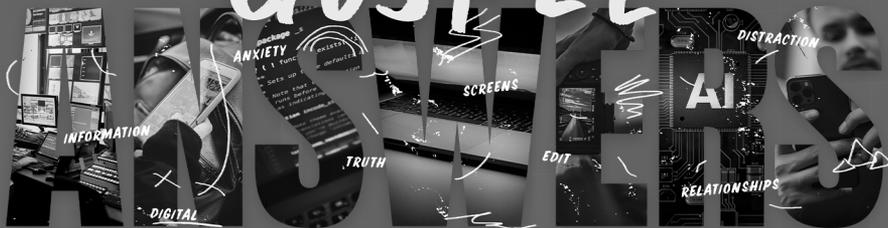
TECHNOLOGY





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# GOSPEL



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# INTRODUCTION

## What is technology?

*"Technology is applied science and amplified power. It's art, method, know-how, formulas, and expertise...Tech intensifies our dexterity, augments our influence, and empowers our previously feeble intentions."*<sup>1</sup> - Tony Reinke

- Technology - root word is techne

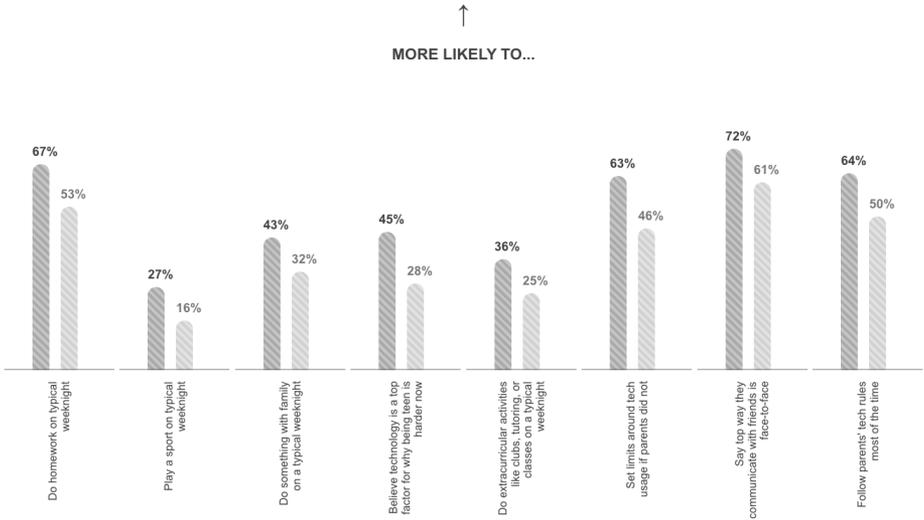
*"[Technology is] a word sufficiently expressive, which is beginning to be revived in the literature of practical men at the present day."*<sup>2</sup> - Jacob Bigelow

- Technology is an application of science in which electrical power is used to improve or enhance efficiency, productivity, or comfort.

*"Any sufficient advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."*<sup>3</sup> - Arthur C. Clarke

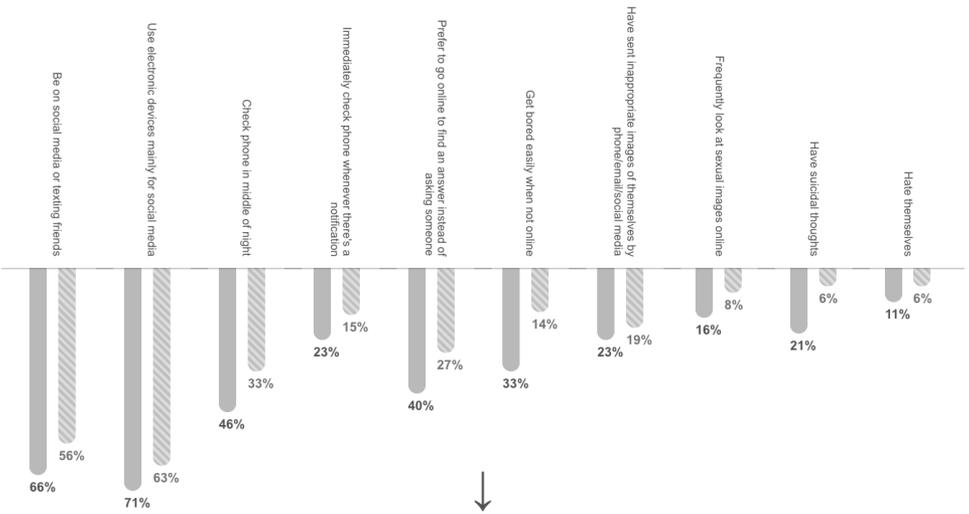
# LESS IS MORE <sup>4</sup>

There are dramatic differences in tech habits, offline activities, relationship habits, and even life satisfaction between those who use their devices less than average and those who use them more than average.



**LOW-TECH USERS:** Less than 4 hours on an electronic device per weekday  

**HIGH-TECH USERS:** 8 hours or more on an electronic device per weekday



LESS LIKELY TO...

n=1,154 teens and young adults ages 13-21 who own a cell phone or have access to a PC or tablet; June 26-July 11, 2019.

## **Beware of problems with technology**

- **Idolatry**

*Isaiah 40:18-23*

*To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.*

*Genesis 11:1-9*

*Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*

- **Idleness**

*Proverbs 6:4-6*

*Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

*Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.*

- **Illness**

- **Mental Illness**

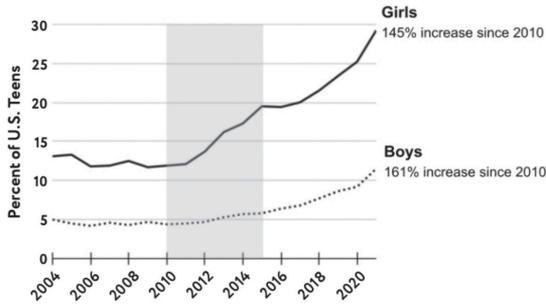
- **Anxiety<sup>5</sup>**

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year.
      - 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year.
      - 1 in 7 U.S. youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year.
      - 23% of adults and 16% of teenagers experience mental illness each year
      - 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.
      - 139% increase in 18-25 year olds since 2010.
      - 103% increase in 26-34 year olds since 2010.
      - Over 2/3 of American college students feel anxiety "more than half the time."

- **Depression<sup>6</sup>**

- 145% increase of major depression in teenage girls since 2010.
      - 161% increase of major depression in teenage boys since 2010.

## Major Depression Among Teens



**Figure 1.1.** Percent of U.S. teens (ages 12–17) who had at least one major depressive episode in the past year, by self-report based on a symptom checklist. This was figure 7.1 in *The Coddling of the American Mind*, now updated with data beyond 2016. (Source: U.S. National Survey on Drug Use and Health.)<sup>9</sup>

### ▪ Fear

#### ▫ Top 10 fears of 2024<sup>7</sup>

- Corrupt Government Officials
- People I Love Becoming Seriously Ill
- Cyberterrorism
- People I Love Dying
- Russia Using Nuclear Weapons
- Not Having Enough Money for the Future
- US Becoming Involved in Another World War
- North Korea Using Nuclear Weapons
- Terrorist Attack
- Biological Warfare

#### ▫ Top 10 phobias according to internet searches<sup>8</sup>

- Trypophobia - the fear of holes.
- Agoraphobia - a fear of leaving familiar, safe environments like one's home.
- Misophonía - hypersensitive to sounds, like how someone else chews, drinks or breathes.
- Thalassophobia - a fear of deep water, such as that found in lakes or oceans.
- Emetophobia - a fear of throwing up.
- Claustrophobia - fear of enclosed spaces.
- Acrophobia - fear of heights.
- Arachnophobia - fear of spiders.

- Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia - fear of long words, especially mispronouncing them.
- Thanatophobia - the intense fear of death or dying.

◦America's Biggest Fears<sup>9</sup>

- Death
- Heights
- Snakes (top in Mississippi)
- Public speaking
- Enclosed spaces
- Failure
- Spiders

*Psalm 118:5-9*

*Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.*

◦Addiction

*"The consequence of dopamine abundance is addiction."<sup>10</sup>  
- Patrick Miller*

*"In ancient Rome, being addicted meant you had just been sentenced to slavery."<sup>11</sup> - Adam Alter*

• Behold the truth

- The Lord is sovereign and good.

*Psalm 135*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession. For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. He it*

was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast; who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants; who struck down many nations and killed mighty kings, Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan, and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel. Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them. O house of Israel, bless the Lord! O house of Aaron, bless the Lord! O house of Levi, bless the Lord! You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord! Blessed be the Lord from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the Lord!

◦The Bible is true and relevant.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the

*words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

*Psalm 119:9*

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.*

*Psalm 119:11*

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

*Psalm 119:98*

*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.*

*Psalm 119:105*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

◦**The church is helpful and hopeful.**

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our*

more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

◦The creation is never greater than the Creator.

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Psalms 8

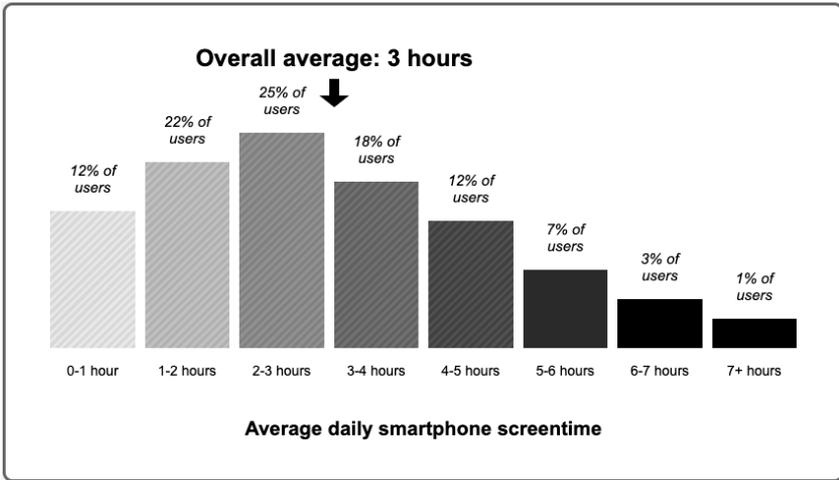
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

# ENDLESS INFORMATION VS COMPLETE WISDOM

As image bearers we are made to have some knowledge.  
As followers of Christ we are made to have complete wisdom.

## Endless Information

- Positives
  - We know more than at any other time in human history.
  - We have quicker access to information than ever before.
  
- Negatives
  - Endless scrolling
    - Dopamine - a compound present in the body as a neurotransmitter and a precursor of other substances including epinephrine.<sup>12</sup>
      - Dopamine is released every time we find pleasure
        - Sex
        - Drugs
        - Eating
        - Exercise
        - Visual stimuli
      - It contributes significantly to mood regulation
    - Average person checks their phone 344 times per day<sup>13</sup>
    - 86% check their phone as their first act in the morning<sup>14</sup>
    - 80% check their phone as their last act before going to bed<sup>15</sup>
    - 88% keep phones in their room<sup>16</sup>



- Artificial Intelligence
  - 3 Stages of AI
    - Artificial Intelligence

*“So it is a truly wonderful thing that although man is twisted and corrupted and lost as a result of the Fall, yet he is still man. He has become neither a machine nor an animal nor a plant. The marks of manliness are still upon him—love, rationality, longing for significance, fear of nonbeing, and so on. This is the case even when his non-Christian system leads him to say these things do not exist. It is these things which distinguish him from the animal and plant world and from the machine.”<sup>18</sup>*  
 – Francis Schaeffer

- Non-biological intelligence involving a machine programmed to accomplish complex goals
- Artificial General Intelligence
  - Human-level intelligence
- Super Intelligence
  - Transhumanism: A movement whose aim is to transform humanity by improving human intelligence, physical strength, and the five senses by technological means.<sup>19</sup>

*“AI is a good servant but it is a terrible master.”<sup>20</sup>*  
 - Carey Nieuwhof

- Chat GPT
  - Helpful for...
    - Summaries
    - Examples
  - Harmful for...
    - Engagement with questions of help
    - Scriptural explanations
    - Personal Counsel

## **Complete Wisdom**

- Wonder
  - Ask God for wisdom

*James 1:5*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

*Proverbs 2:6*

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

- Fear God to start

*Proverbs 9:10*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

*Proverbs 1:7*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Proverbs 4:7*

*The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.*

- Trust God for provision

*Proverbs 11:30-31*

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise. 31 If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!*

*Proverbs 16:16*

*How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.*

- Wander

*2 Corinthians 3:12-18*

*Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*1 John 1:1-3*

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

*1 John 4:12-14*

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*

## BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day and by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, I thy dear child;  
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight.  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;  
Raise thou me Heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.<sup>21</sup>



# DIGITAL FRIENDSHIPS VS GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS

As image bearers we are made to live in community.  
As followers of Christ we are made to have genuine relationships.

## Digital Friendships

- Social Media
  - Friends
    - Order of communication for teens
      - Text
      - Face to face
      - Social media
      - Calling on the phone
      - DM
      - Email
  - Likes, shares, hearts, subscribe, dislikes, emojis

*Colossians 4:5-6*

*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

### ◦ 30 Biblical Exhortations<sup>22</sup>

1. Trust that the Imago Dei will always be better than the Imago Meta (or Imago Anything Else).

*Genesis 1:26*

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

2. Insist upon the goodness of our physical bodies, physical relationships, and physical spaces in God's good design for the world.

*Genesis 2:15*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

*Genesis 2:24-25*

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

### 3. Proceed with extreme caution.

*Proverbs 17:24*

*The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.*

*Proverbs 29:11*

*A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.*

*Ephesians 5:15–17*

*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

### 4. Fear God.

*Proverbs 1:7*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Proverbs 15:3*

*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.*

### 5. Cultivate beauty, truth, and wonder in what you say and do.

*Psalms 40:5*

*You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.*

6. Enjoy and steward opportunities to encourage and connect with other people.

*Colossians 3:15*

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

7. Think and pray before you speak or act (send or post).

*Proverbs 13:3*

*Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

*Proverbs 29:20*

*Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

8. Always ask two questions:

▫Will what I say or do glorify God?

*Matthew 5:13–16*

*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

▫Will what I say or do adorn the gospel?

*Colossians 4:3–6*

*At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

9. When in doubt, don't.

*Proverbs 10:19*

*When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.*

## 10. Avoid harsh and hurtful speech.

*Proverbs 12:18*

*There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

*Proverbs 15:18*

*A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.*

## 11. Avoid quarrelsome, retaliatory, and inflammatory speech.

*Proverbs 18:6*

*A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.*

*Proverbs 20:3*

*It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.*

## 12. Avoid gossip and slander.

*Proverbs 16:27–28*

*A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire. A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.*

*Ephesians 4:29–32*

*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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

## 13. Avoid grumbling and complaining.

*Philippians 2:14–15*

*Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

14. Avoid saying or doing on a screen what you wouldn't say or do in person.

*2 Corinthians 10:8-11*

*For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.*

15. Avoid communicating to "that" person or group of people at "that" time without considering "every" person and group of people at "any" time.

*Hebrews 10:24*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...*

16. Conduct yourself honestly.

*Proverbs 16:2*

*All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.*

*1 Corinthians 4:5*

*Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*

17. Cultivate humility.

*John 3:30*

*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

*Proverbs 11:2*

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.*

*Proverbs 27:2*

*Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.*

*Proverbs 30:32*

*If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth.*

18. Have accountability.

*Proverbs 19:20*

*Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.*

*Proverbs 19:27*

*Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.*

*Proverbs 27:17*

*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

19. Don't let digital or social media control you.

*1 Corinthians 6:12*

*"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.*

20. Don't let digital or social media deceive you.

*Colossians 2:8*

*See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

21. Guard your heart from envy, jealousy, pride, and ambition.

*Proverbs 4:23*

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

*Philippians 2:3-4*

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

22. Guard your mind from falsehood, filth, and frivolity.

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the*

*renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Psalm 101:3*

*I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.*

*Proverbs 12:11*

*Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.*

23. Guard your life from ungodly influences, unhealthy friendships, and unhelpful associations.

*Proverbs 4:14–15*

*Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.*

*Proverbs 12:26*

*One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

*Proverbs 13:20*

*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

*1 Corinthians 15:33*

*Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*

24. Flee sexual immorality.

*1 Corinthians 6:18–20*

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 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, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

25. Be cautious in one-on-one interaction with someone else's spouse.

*2 Peter 3:14*

*Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*

26. Avoid one-on-one interaction with minors.

*Matthew 18:5-6*

*Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

27. Be open, honest, and up-to-date in interaction between minors and parents.

*Ephesians 6:1-4*

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

28. Make the most of every opportunity.

*Colossians 4:5*

*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

*Romans 15:20*

*...and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation...*

29. Make sure not to neglect other priorities.

*2 Thessalonians 3:11-12*

*For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.*

*Psalms 127:2*

*It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*...pray without ceasing...*

## 30. Do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- Chatbots

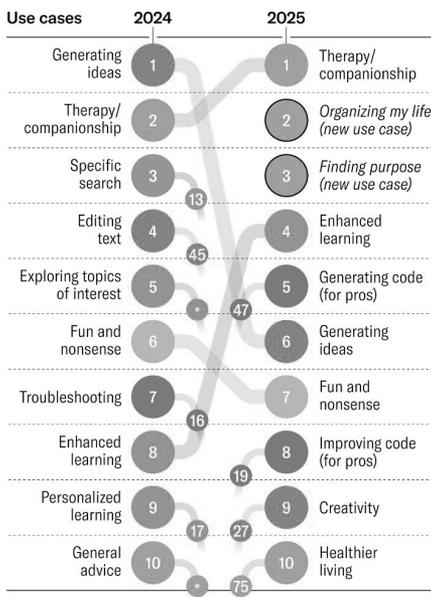
- Key questions

- What is the difference between human and machine?
    - Do machines have rights?
    - What moral code should legislate the development of AI?
    - What role should AI systems play in government, business, war, and education?

- Five Shifts

- White Collar Job Loss
    - Rise of Super Elite
    - Deep Fake Deceptions
    - Cognitive Obesity
    - Artificial Intimacy

### Top 10 Gen AI Use Cases<sup>23</sup>



<sup>23</sup>Did not make list of top 100 in 2025

IBM

**The following information is developed by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and available at [erlc.com](http://erlc.com).<sup>24</sup>**

**Article 1: Image of God**

- We affirm that God created each human being in His image with intrinsic and equal worth, dignity, and moral agency, distinct from all creation, and that humanity’s creativity is intended to reflect God’s creative pattern.
- We deny that any part of creation, including any form of technology, should ever be used to usurp or subvert the dominion and stewardship which has been entrusted solely to humanity by God; nor should technology be assigned a level of human identity, worth, dignity, or moral agency.
  - Genesis 1:26-28; 5:1-2, Isaiah 43:6-7; Jeremiah 1:5; John 13:34; Colossians 1:16; 3:10; Ephesians 4:24

**Article 2: AI as Technology**

- We affirm that the development of AI is a demonstration of the unique creative abilities of human beings. When AI is employed in accordance with God’s moral will, it is an example of man’s obedience to the divine command to steward creation and to honor Him. We believe in innovation for the glory of God, the sake of human flourishing, and the love of neighbor. While we acknowledge the reality of the Fall and its consequences on human nature and human innovation, technology can be used in society to uphold human dignity. As a part of our God-given creative nature, human beings should develop and harness technology in ways that lead to greater flourishing and the alleviation of human suffering.
- We deny that the use of AI is morally neutral. It is not worthy of man’s hope, worship, or love. Since the Lord Jesus alone can atone for sin and reconcile humanity to its Creator, technology such as AI cannot fulfill humanity’s ultimate needs. We further deny the goodness and benefit of any application of AI that devalues or degrades the dignity and worth of another human being.
  - Genesis 2:25; Exodus 20:3; 31:1-11; Proverbs 16:4; Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 3:23

**Article 3: Relationship of AI & Humanity**

- We affirm the use of AI to inform and aid human reasoning and moral decision-making because it is a tool that excels at processing data and making determinations, which often mimics or exceeds human ability. While AI excels in data-based computation, technology is incapable of possessing the capacity for moral agency or responsibility.

- We deny that humans can or should cede our moral accountability or responsibilities to any form of AI that will ever be created. Only humanity will be judged by God on the basis of our actions and that of the tools we create. While technology can be created with a moral use in view, it is not a moral agent. Humans alone bear the responsibility for moral decision making.

◦Romans 2:6-8; Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Peter 1:5-8; 1 John 2:1

#### **Article 4: Medicine**

- We affirm that AI-related advances in medical technologies are expressions of God’s common grace through and for people created in His image and that these advances will increase our capacity to provide enhanced medical diagnostics and therapeutic interventions as we seek to care for all people. These advances should be guided by basic principles of medical ethics, including beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice, which are all consistent with the biblical principle of loving our neighbor.

- We deny that death and disease—effects of the Fall—can ultimately be eradicated apart from Jesus Christ. Utilitarian applications regarding healthcare distribution should not override the dignity of human life. Furthermore, we reject the materialist and consequentialist worldview that understands medical applications of AI as a means of improving, changing, or completing human beings.

◦Matthew 5:45; John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57;  
Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:4

#### **Article 5: Bias**

- We affirm that, as a tool created by humans, AI will be inherently subject to bias and that these biases must be accounted for, minimized, or removed through continual human oversight and discretion. AI should be designed and used in such ways that treat all human beings as having equal worth and dignity. AI should be utilized as a tool to identify and eliminate bias inherent in human decision-making.

- We deny that AI should be designed or used in ways that violate the fundamental principle of human dignity for all people. Neither should AI be used in ways that reinforce or further any ideology or agenda, seeking to subjugate human autonomy under the power of the state.

◦Micah 6:8; John 13:34; Galatians 3:28-29; 5:13-14;  
Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:10

## **Article 6: Sexuality**

- We affirm the goodness of God’s design for human sexuality which prescribes the sexual union to be an exclusive relationship between a man and a woman in the lifelong covenant of marriage.
- We deny that the pursuit of sexual pleasure is a justification for the development or use of AI, and we condemn the objectification of humans that results from employing AI for sexual purposes. AI should not intrude upon or substitute for the biblical expression of sexuality between a husband and wife according to God’s design for human marriage.

◦Genesis 1:26-29; 2:18-25; Matthew 5:27-30; 1 Thess 4:3-4

## **Article 7: Work**

- We affirm that work is part of God’s plan for human beings participating in the cultivation and stewardship of creation. The divine pattern is one of labor and rest in healthy proportion to each other. Our view of work should not be confined to commercial activity; it must also include the many ways that human beings serve each other through their efforts. AI can be used in ways that aid our work or allow us to make fuller use of our gifts. The church has a Spirit-empowered responsibility to help care for those who lose jobs and to encourage individuals, communities, employers, and governments to find ways to invest in the development of human beings and continue making vocational contributions to our lives together.
- We deny that human worth and dignity is reducible to an individual’s economic contributions to society alone. Humanity should not use AI and other technological innovations as a reason to move toward lives of pure leisure even if greater social wealth creates such possibilities.

◦Genesis 1:27; 2:5; 2:15; Isaiah 65:21-24; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16

## **Article 8: Data & Privacy**

- We affirm that privacy and personal property are intertwined individual rights and choices that should not be violated by governments, corporations, nation-states, and other groups, even in the pursuit of the common good. While God knows all things, it is neither wise nor obligatory to have every detail of one’s life open to society.
- We deny the manipulative and coercive uses of data and AI in ways that are inconsistent with the love of God and love of neighbor. Data collection practices should conform to ethical guidelines that uphold the dignity of all people. We further deny that consent, even

informed consent, although requisite, is the only necessary ethical standard for the collection, manipulation, or exploitation of personal data—individually or in the aggregate. AI should not be employed in ways that distort truth through the use of generative applications. Data should not be mishandled, misused, or abused for sinful purposes to reinforce bias, strengthen the powerful, or demean the weak.

◦Exodus 20:15; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:13-14; Matthew 10:16  
Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 John 1:7

### **Article 9: Security**

- We affirm that AI has legitimate applications in policing, intelligence, surveillance, investigation, and other uses supporting the government's responsibility to respect human rights, to protect and preserve human life, and to pursue justice in a flourishing society.
- We deny that AI should be employed for safety and security applications in ways that seek to dehumanize, depersonalize, or harm our fellow human beings. We condemn the use of AI to suppress free expression or other basic human rights granted by God to all human beings.

◦Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14

### **Article 10: War**

- We affirm that the use of AI in warfare should be governed by love of neighbor and the principles of just war. The use of AI may mitigate the loss of human life, provide greater protection of non-combatants, and inform better policymaking. Any lethal action conducted or substantially enabled by AI must employ human oversight or review. All defense-related AI applications, such as underlying data and decision-making processes, must be subject to continual review by legitimate authorities. When these systems are deployed, human agents bear full moral responsibility for any actions taken by the system.
- We deny that human agency or moral culpability in war can be delegated to AI. No nation or group has the right to use AI to carry out genocide, terrorism, torture, or other war crimes.

◦Genesis 4:10; Isaiah 1:16-17; Psalm 37:28; Matthew 5:44;  
Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 13:4

### **Article 11: Public Policy**

- We affirm that the fundamental purposes of government are to protect human beings from harm, punish those who do evil, uphold civil liberties, and to commend those who do good. The public has a role in shaping and crafting policies concerning the use of AI in

society, and these decisions should not be left to those who develop these technologies or to governments to set norms.

- We deny that AI should be used by governments, corporations, or any entity to infringe upon God-given human rights. AI, even in a highly advanced state, should never be delegated the governing authority that has been granted by an all-sovereign God to human beings alone.

◦Romans 13:1-7; Acts 10:35; 1 Peter 2:13-14

## **Article 12: The Future of AI**

- We affirm that AI will continue to be developed in ways that we cannot currently imagine or understand, including AI that will far surpass many human abilities. God alone has the power to create life, and no future advancements in AI will usurp Him as the Creator of life. The church has a unique role in proclaiming human dignity for all and calling for the humane use of AI in all aspects of society.

- We deny that AI will make us more or less human, or that AI will ever obtain a coequal level of worth, dignity, or value to image-bearers. Future advancements in AI will not ultimately fulfill our longings for a perfect world. While we are not able to comprehend or know the future, we do not fear what is to come because we know that God is omniscient and that nothing we create will be able to thwart His redemptive plan for creation or to supplant humanity as His image-bearers.

◦Genesis 1; Isaiah 42:8; Romans 1:20-21; 5:2; Ephesians 1:4-6; 2 Timothy 1:7-9; Revelation 5:9-10

## **Remember: Beware**

- Idolatry
- Idleness
- Illness

## **Genuine Relationships**

- Soul care

“Soul care requires souls that care.”  
- Brian and Candi Crawford

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

- **Marriage**

*Genesis 2:24*

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

*Colossians 3:18-19*

*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

*Ephesians 5:22-33*

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- **Family**

*Ephesians 6:1-4*

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

◦47% of teenagers wish that their family spent more time together and less time on devices.<sup>25</sup>

- **Church**

◦As the church we have the opportunity of a lifetime to become more human in our response.

◦**We belong.**

*John 13:34*

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

*1 Peter 4:8*

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*

*Ephesians 4:32*

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

*Proverbs 27:17*

*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

*Proverbs 17:17*

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

◦**We gather.**

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

◦**We send.**

*Matthew 28:18-20*

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

## SERVANT SONG

Brother, sister, let me serve you.  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are brothers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night time of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you;  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you.  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.<sup>26</sup>



# VISUAL ALLUREMENT VS AUDIBLE SPLENDOR

As image bearers we are made to enjoy the created world around us.  
As followers of Christ we are made to hear and understand the truth of God.

## Visual Allurement

*Matthew 6:22-23*

*The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

- Our eyes are often the gateway to emotional response

*Psalms 34:8*

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

*Romans 1:18-23*

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

*Psalms 8*

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the*

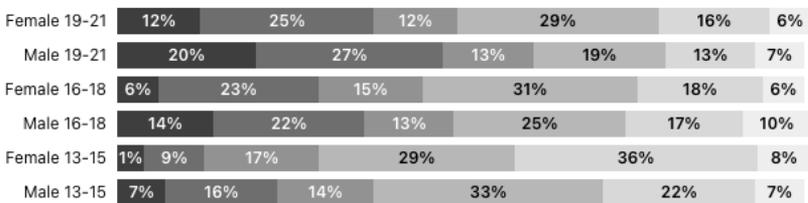
*work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

- Our gaze leads to our beholding
  - Television
    - More than 24,000 minutes of new video content is uploaded to YouTube every minute of every day.<sup>27</sup>
    - An estimated number of running, scripted, original television series available on American television was 210 in 2009 to 455 in 2016.<sup>28</sup>
  - Cell Phones
    - We check our smartphones 81,500 times each year, or once every 4.3 minutes of our waking lives.<sup>29</sup>
  - Pornography

### Forbidden Images

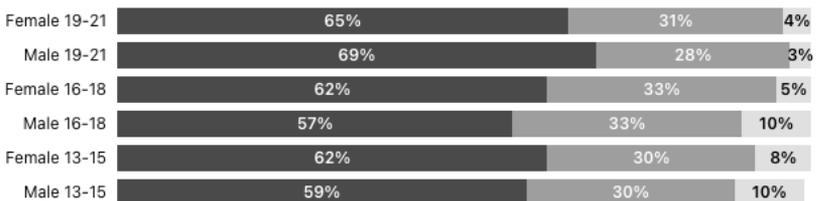
All of them  
  Most of them  
  About half of them  
  A few of them  
  None of them  
 Refuse to say

How many people in your circle of friends do you think regularly look at sexual images online?



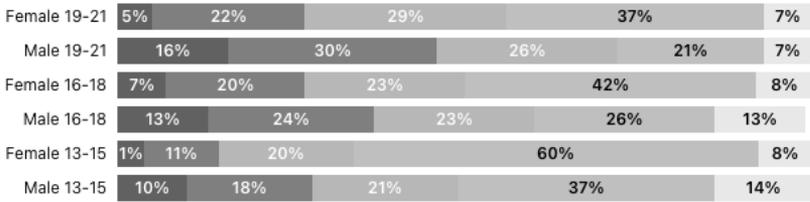
Yes  
  No  
  Refuse to say

Have you ever accidentally come across any kind of sexual images on a computer, tablet, phone, or other device?



■ Frequently ■ Occasionally ■ Rarely ■ Never ■ Refuse to say

*How often, if ever, do you look at any kind of sexual images on a computer, tablet, phone, or other device?*



All respondents, n=1151 (3 respondents chose not to participate in these questions due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter). Male 13-15 YO, n=191; Female 13-15 YO, n=95; Male 16-18 YO, n=175; Female 16-18 YO, n=176; Male 19-21 YO, n=239; Female 19-21, n=275

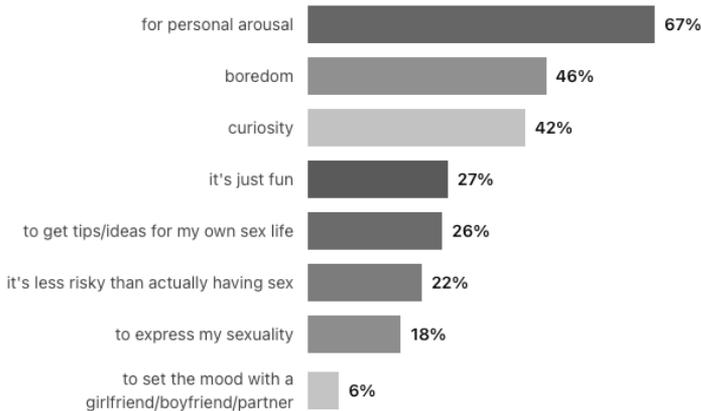
▪ 40% to 50% of teenage girls have been asked to send an inappropriate image through phone, email, or social media

## Reasons Teens Search for Porn<sup>31</sup>

*Why do you view porn?*

Select all that apply.

% among teens ages 13 to 17 who actively seek out porn



n = 543 US teens ages 13 to 17 who actively seek out porn; July 2015; © Josh McDowell Ministry

## Truths regarding Pornography

*Matthew 5:28*

*But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

## Statistics regarding Pornography<sup>32</sup>

- Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites.
- 47% of families in the U.S. reported that pornography is a problem in their home.
- Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.
- 94% of children will see porn by the age of 14.
- 70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.
- 68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis.
- 33% of women aged 25 and under search for porn at least once per month.
- 55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.

## Responses to Pornography

- Replace your closet of sinful secrets with a closet of prayerful praise.

*Job 31:1*

*I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?*

*“Each of the Bible’s sexual prohibitions is encapsulated in the all-encompassing command ‘Flee from sexual immorality’ (1 Corinthians 6:18).”<sup>33</sup> - David Platt*

- Replace your self-gratifying acts with God-glorifying mission.

*1 Corinthians 6:18*

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, who you have from God. You are not your own for you were bought with a price. So glorify God with your body.*

*"Oh to think of it! That Jesus, God in the flesh, took the penalty upon himself for all our adultery and all our pornography and every single lust we have ever had or will ever have. Indeed, Jesus has paid a steep price for our bodies." <sup>34</sup> - David Platt*

*"The stakes in the current conflict over sex are more critical, more central, and more essential than in any controversy the church has ever known. This is a momentous statement, but I make it soberly, without exaggeration. Conflict over sex these days is not just challenging tradition, orthodoxy, and respect for authority in areas such as ordination, marriage, and gender roles. And it does not just affect critically important doctrines like the sanctity of human life, the authority and trustworthiness of scripture, the Trinity, and the incarnation of Christ. Rather, war over sex among Christians is now raging over absolutely essential matters of faith without which no one can truly be a Christian in the first place—matters such as sin, salvation, the gospel, and the identity of God himself."<sup>35</sup> - Daniel Heimbach*

*Proverbs 7:6-27*

*For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice, and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense, passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness. And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart. She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home; now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait. She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him, "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows; so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you. I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen; I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love. For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey; he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home." With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him. All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life. And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.*

- Virtual Reality

- Gaming

- The World Health Organization officially recognized gaming disorder in 2019, describing it as a condition marked by impaired control over gaming, increasing priority given to gaming over other activities, and continuation of gaming despite negative consequences.<sup>36</sup>

- Around 8.5% of children and teenagers under 18 around the world may be addicted to gaming.<sup>37</sup>

- Remember: Beware

- Idolatry

- Internet Addiction Test

### Internet Addiction Test

Select the response that best represents the frequency of each behavior listed using the scale below: 38

- 0 = Not applicable
- 1 = Rarely
- 2 = Occasionally
- 3 = Frequently
- 4 = Often
- 5 = Always

How often do you find that you stay online longer than you intended? \_\_\_\_

How often do others in your life complain to you about the amount of time you spend online? \_\_\_\_

How often do you check your email before something else that you need to do? \_\_\_\_

How often do you lose sleep because of late night log-ins? \_\_\_\_

How often do you find yourself saying "just a few minutes" when online? \_\_\_\_

- 46% of people say they couldn't bear to live without their smartphones<sup>39</sup>

- Idleness

- Illness

*"Technology has also helped accelerate a 'loneliness epidemic' with demonstrable, wide-ranging negative effects on overall health."<sup>40</sup> - Tatum Hunter*

## **Audible Splendor**

- **Hear from the Word**

*Romans 10:8-17*

*But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

- **Pray to the Lord**

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*...pray without ceasing...*

*James 5:16*

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

*Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*



# CONCLUSION

## **Beware of problems**

- Idolatry
- Idleness
- Illness

## **Behold the truth**

- The Lord is sovereign and good.

*Psalm 135*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession. For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses. He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast; who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants; who struck down many nations and killed mighty kings, Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan, and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel. Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them. O house of Israel, bless the Lord! O house of Aaron, bless the Lord! O house of Levi, bless the Lord! You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord! Blessed be the Lord from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the Lord!*

- **The Bible is true and relevant.**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*Psalms 19*

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

*Psalms 119:9*

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.*

*Psalms 119:11*

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

*Psalms 119:98*

*Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.*

*Psalms 119:105*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

- The church is helpful and hopeful.

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

- The creation is never greater than the Creator.

*Genesis 1:26-31*

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every*

*plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

*Psalm 8*

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

# CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to him belong  
Who holds our days within his hand?  
What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good  
Where is his grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
"Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death  
O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal<sup>41</sup>



# RESOURCES

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Andy Crouch, *The Tech-Wise Family*

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Michael Graham, *AI Christian Benchmark*

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Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*

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Tony Reinke, *Competing Spectacles*

Tony Reinke, *God, Technology, and the Christian Life*

Darren Whitehead, *The Digital Fast*

Jim Wilder & Michel Hendricks, *The Other Half of Church*

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