

Cor's notes

Title for [Sunday's](#) message: The (Social) World We Live In

Summary: Social media has changed our world. Originally, we pursued these platforms in hopes of connection and personal expression. This has morphed into being inundated with news, advertisements, political dissension, and endless scrolling. How does the gospel impact us in responding to this (social) world we live in?

Preaching text: Acts 17:16-34

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<sup>24</sup>“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup>From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup>God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup>‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup>In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup>For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup>When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” <sup>33</sup>At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup>Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ac 17:16–34). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

## The GOSPEL is of FIRST Importance!

### 1 Corinthians 15:3–5

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

QUESTION: Are we allowing the gospel to inform our engagement with social media?

The use of social media as described through the experiences of other Hopesters.

Christians are being formed in decidedly unchristian ways.

Jason Thacker, Gospel Coalition, ‘The Social Dilemma’ and the Bigger Dilemma

### PART 1: Paul, The Messenger

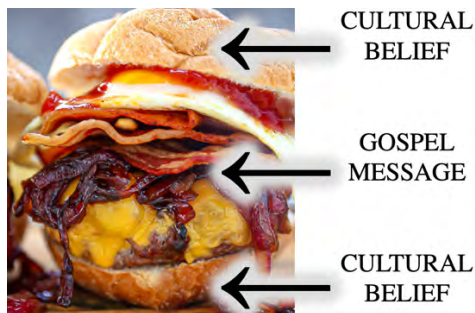
Acts 17:16-17

### PART 2: A Specific Audience within Athens

Acts 17:18-21

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The GOSPEL cheeseburger



### Part 3: The Best Message Cheeseburger EVER

Acts 17:22-31

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Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992.

What are our cultural values? Connection, Authenticity, Influence

What have “our own poets” said about social media?

**Part 4: The Various Responses of the Crowd**

Acts 17:29-34

Sometimes theology answers the question. Sometimes theology changes the question.

The gospel is the heart of connection, authenticity, and influence!!

BIG QUESTION to consider this week, in prayer, in the taking of communion:

Are you/we allowing the gospel to influence how you/we engage (y)our social media world?

SERMON SERIES: **The Gospel Changes Everything**  
FALL 2020

BRAINSTORMING NOTES

**The (Social) World We Live In**

**Description:** Where are we getting our source of truth? The impact that social media and the news (right or left) has tainted our view of complex issues, ultimately lying to us on a steady diet of an echo chamber of our personal preferences.

One of the more important parts of this sermon will be what we are depicting as the problem in regard to social media/technology.

- Is it the (over)use of social media in general?
- Is it the (over)reliance on social media for news, facts, etc.?
- Is it the ways by which social media is a distraction from other worthwhile endeavors like [parenting](#), work (employees spend 32% of time on social media), rest/leisure, etc.
- Is it the way an echo chamber is created, devolving into polarization and hatred of the other?
- It is the way that social media contributes to feelings of inadequacy, FOMO, anxiety, depression, etc.?
- Is it that the church needs to embrace it and are failing to maximize its utility in spreading the gospel?

Based on which angle you take it will impact the passage(s) you choose to preach.

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There are a lot of different ways one could go with this topic.

For a message of **warning about love of the world**, 1 John 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. <sup>16</sup>For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. <sup>2</sup>

For a message regarding sources of **truth**, John 18:28-40

<sup>28</sup>Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

<sup>30</sup>“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

<sup>31</sup>Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

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<sup>2</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (1 Jn 2:15–17). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. <sup>32</sup>This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup>Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup>“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup>“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup>Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup>“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

<sup>38</sup>“What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup>But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

<sup>40</sup>They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising. <sup>3</sup>

For a message of **embracing social media** for the gospel, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

<sup>19</sup>Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. <sup>4</sup>

For a message **warning against echo chambers and failing to hear God**, Isaiah 6:9-10 (cf. Isa 55:3),

<sup>9</sup>He said, “Go and tell this people:

“ ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’

<sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull  
and close their eyes. <sup>5</sup>

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed.” <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 18:28–40). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>4</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (1 Co 9:19–23). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>5</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Is 6:9–10). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

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## OTHER IDEAS

How different generations view social media:

- Senior members – infrequent usage, great way to see pictures of the grandkids!
- Boomers – intermittent usage, inform me
- Gen X – consistent usage, life stage (education, housing, family, parenting, etc.)
- Gen Z – all of life, entertain me

Websites with social media facts, tech habits, etc.:

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/>

<https://www.journalism.org/interactives/generational-media-habits/table/heard/>

Pretty easy to find some statistics

GREAT drama/documentary – The Social Dilemma

Impact on society

- In education: Digital obstacles in schoolwork
- Influence: Power to build movements AND become a giant distraction
- Politics/elections: low confidence in in tech companies to prevent misuse // too much power
- Privacy: lack of control over personal information, Gen Z is less concerned
- Dating/relationships: how to meet, fall in love, etc.

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While it's true that in rural areas internet usage and adoption is lower than in suburban and urban areas, even in rural America, [86% of people](#) say they use the internet daily. In 2019, [90% of Americans](#) overall say they regularly use the internet.



# The Gospel Changes Everything



*The (Social) World  
We Live In*

Fall  
2020  
Series

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Does the gospel change *everything*?



Google+



LinkedIn



Twitter



Reddit



Vimeo



Facebook



YouTube



Instagram

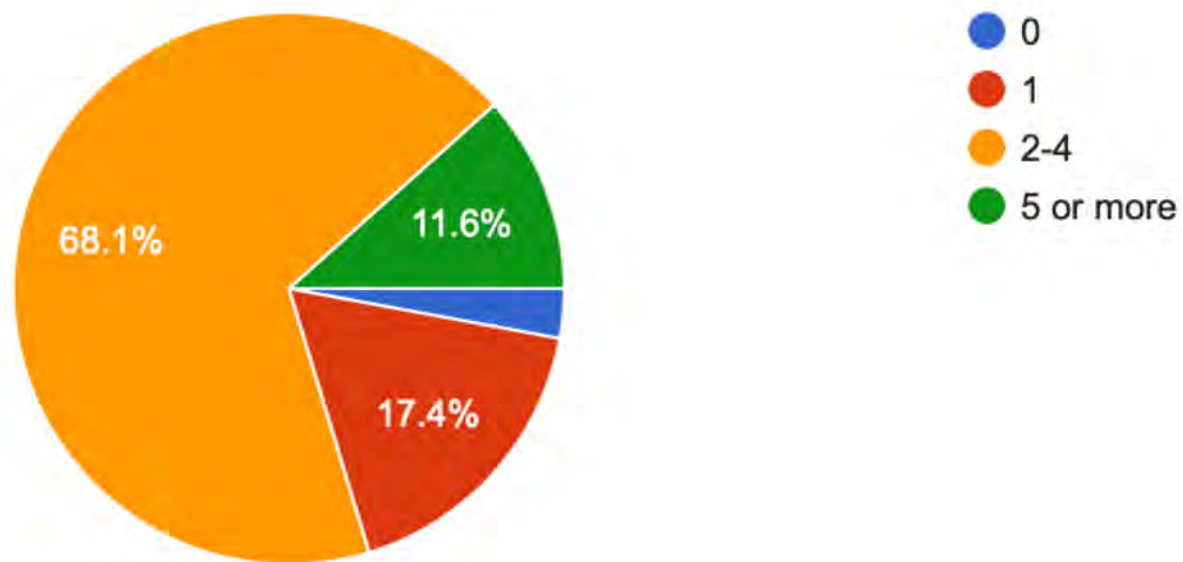


Pinterest



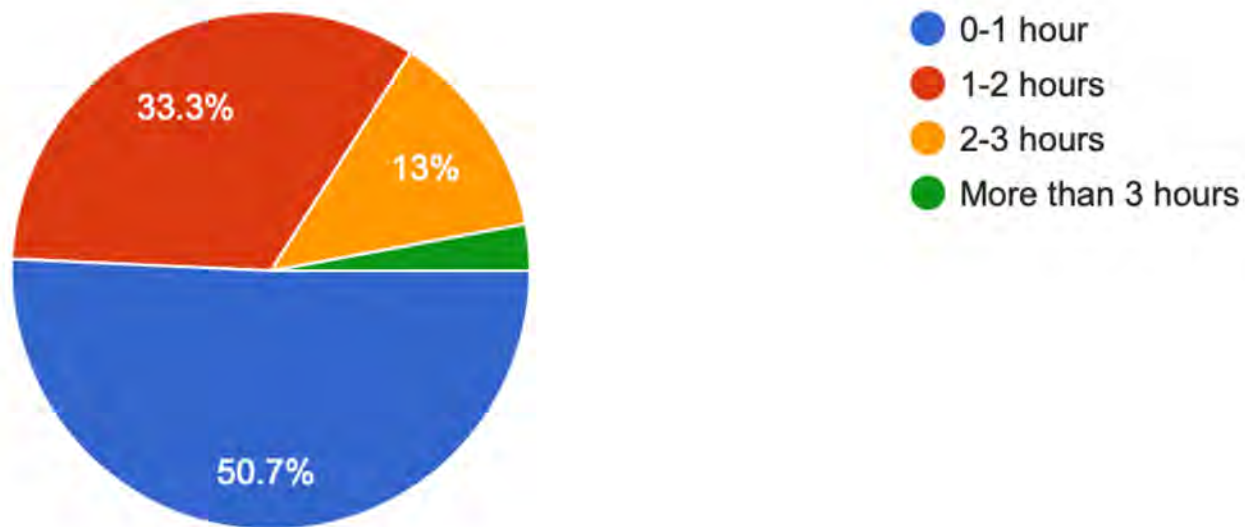
## How many different social media platforms are you currently on?

69 responses



## How much time per day do you spend on social media?

69 responses



It has become so much clearer to me during this time of quarantine and solitude how social media directly affects how I feel about myself and the world around me – the more time I spend scrolling...the more disconnected I feel.

I've forgotten how to be bored.  
How to sit quiet, in my own thoughts.

...

I have an entertainment addiction.

While watching “The Social Dilemma”, a former employee of Pinterest described his relationship with his phone...It was an exact description of my relationship with alcohol before deciding to seek treatment.

I'm not on many social media platforms because when I was, it would quietly wreck me. It made me compare myself to others in a way that wasn't glorifying to God, and it led to further issues with body image, contentment in relationships, and coveting what others had.






It is shaping our hearts.





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unchristian ways.

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'The Social Dilemma' and the Bigger Dilemma



Scripture reading by the Johnson family

# Paul, The Messenger

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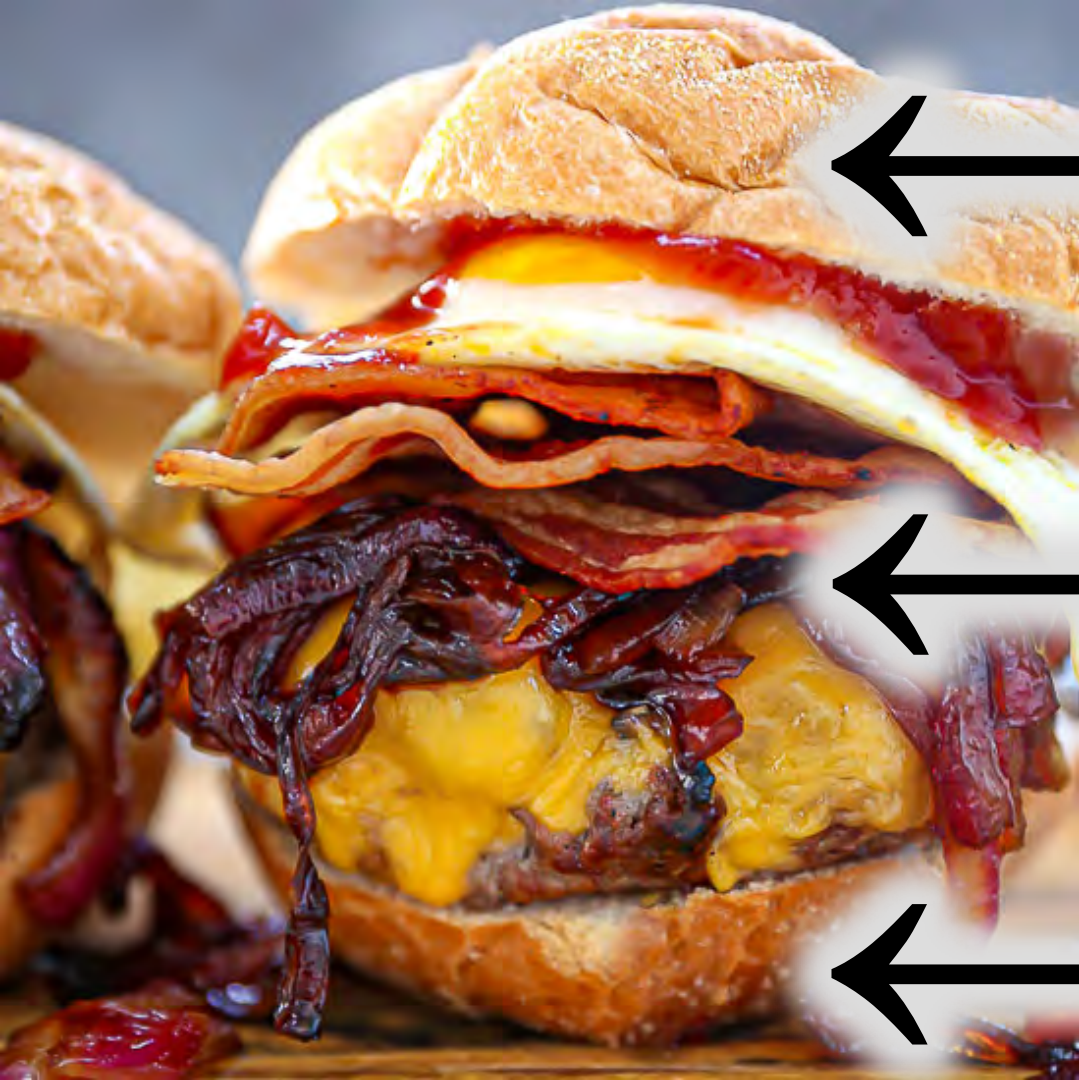
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CULTURAL  
BELIEF

GOSPEL  
MESSAGE

CULTURAL  
BELIEF



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CULTURAL  
BELIEF

What are our cultural values?



CULTURAL  
BELIEF

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Connection

Authenticity

Influence

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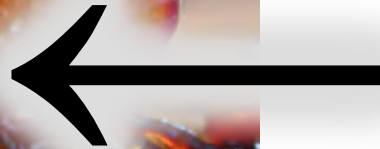
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CULTURAL  
BELIEF



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GOSPEL  
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