



I think we have created tools [with] short-term, dopamine-driven feedback loops that are destroying how society works. No civil discourse, no cooperation; misinformation, mistruth. It's a global problem.

- **Chamath Palihapitiya**, former VP of Facebook

'I have the right to do anything'— but I will not be mastered by anything.

- **Paul the Apostle**, 1Cor 6:12

Do not love the world or the things in the world.

- **John the Beloved**, 1Jn2:15

The worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- **Jesus of Nazareth**, Matt 13:22

## Screen wisdom

The aroma of Christ ... on the internet

**21 January**—How do I know if I am wise?

**28 January**—I'm too busy, but what am I achieving?

**4 February**—Do I have real friends?

**11 February**—What are you looking at?

**18 February**—#wordscanhurt

**25 February**—Can I ♥ the internet?

### Forefront Community Church

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you want to discuss things mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to do so. Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world

#### Our values:

**Seek God** – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

**Love Generously** – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

**Expect transformation** – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community



## Screen wisdom

Are our screens—phone, tablet, computer, TV—a tool for good or an attention-hogging addiction? Can we use them wisely and master them?

Dunno, LOL!



For six weeks we let the ancient book of Proverbs shed light on this most modern question.

Cool, CU in church



**21 January – How do I know if I am wise?**

Wisdom is about priorities – God first, and all other things in order. Healthy balance. Use of time, energy, money. Screens suck up our attention; if they diminish anything on a healthy priority list (God, family, work, friendships) they have become an idol. How can we be sure we are giving God his due? How do we find wisdom to live by?

Prov 8:12-21 ... & 3:5,6; 9:10-12; 24:11,12

**28 January – What am I achieving?**

Proverbs has much to say about ' sluggards'. We are a paradoxically busy, lazy generation – something is always going on (or at least, switched on), yet we often don't achieve what we say we will. How do we avoid the internet turning us into people who won't commit, can't finish and won't face reality?

Prov 6:6-11 ... and 13:4, 14:23; 15:19; 19:24; 21:25; 20:4; 24:30-34; 26:13-16

**4 February – Do I have real friends?**

"True friends have flesh". This is a generation where everyone's connected, and everyone has online friends ... yet record numbers of people say they are lonely. When God wanted to befriend us (re-friend us) he took on flesh. What's the lesson?

Fair-weather (online?) friends vs real: 19:4-7; 18:24; 27:10; 26:8,9  
Friends or flattery: 29:5; 16:23-28; 28:23  
What's a good friend? 3:27-30; 12:26; 14:21; 24:17,19; 25:21,22

**11 February—  
What are you looking at?**

Some desires are good, but give them free rein and they become disorderly and harmful. Is it sin if it's virtual? Is it OK so long as you aren't caught?

General: 3:5-12; 8:13; 2:16-19; 14:12  
Sexual images: 2:18,19; 5:8,9,20-23; 6:25; 7:10-27

**18 February—#wordscanhurt**

Why are online comments so horrible? Is there a 'digital you' and a 'real you'? From fake news to memes, words still destroy.

Prov 6:16-19 ... and 11:9,12,13; 12:18,25; 13:3; 16:27,28; 18:8,21; 22:24,25

**25 February—Can I ♥ the internet?**

What would the internet look like if everyone on it was motivated by love? Could there be an online ♥ revolution?

Prov 3:1-18

Each week there will be a member of the young people in 180 joining us, to bring a perspective from the people most affected by the screen revolution. And, each week—there will be a different challenge for everyone who uses screens to achieve!

