

READY  
PLAYER  
ONE  
ERNEST  
CLINE  
A NOVEL



EMBODIED FAITH



“Technology doesn’t just do things *for* us.  
It does things *to* us, changing not just what we do but we who are.”

Dr. Sherry Turkle

EMBODIED FAITH

# EMBODIED FAITH

How the Gospel is  
Good News for Our  
Physical Bodies

# Embodied Interaction & Identity

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

Genesis 1:31

For the creation was subjected to futility...

Romans 8:20

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...

Psalms 139:13-14a

# Embodied Interaction & Identity

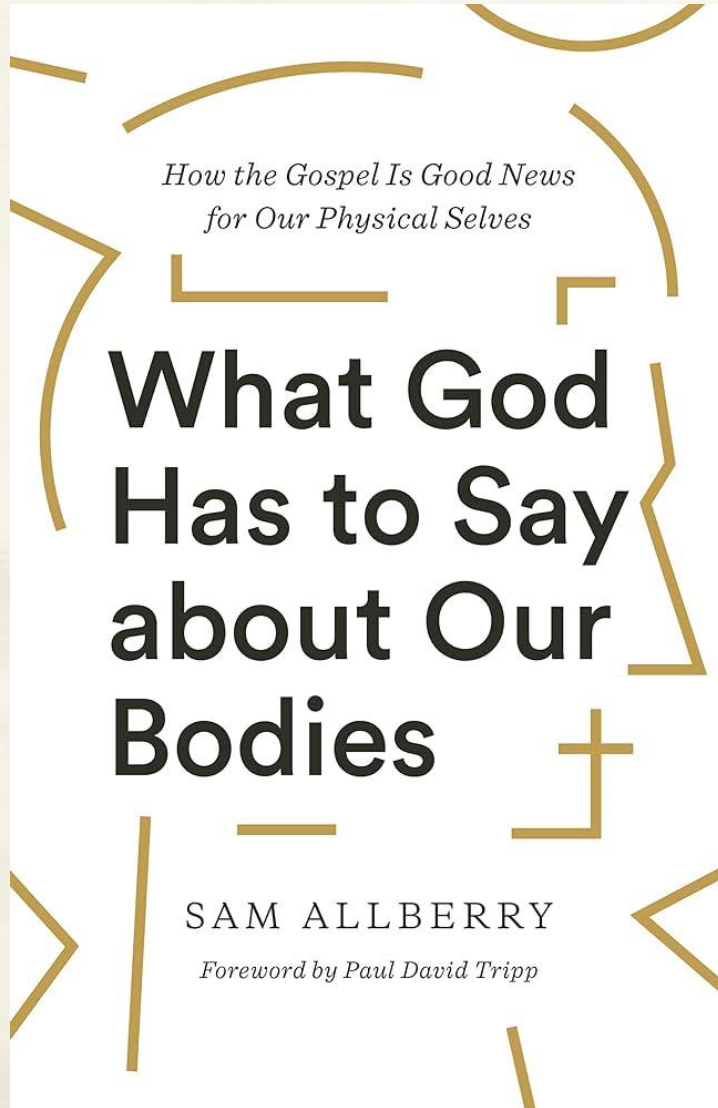
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

John 1:14a

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things... he had to be made like his brothers in every respect...

Hebrews 2:14a, 17

# Embodied Interaction & Identity



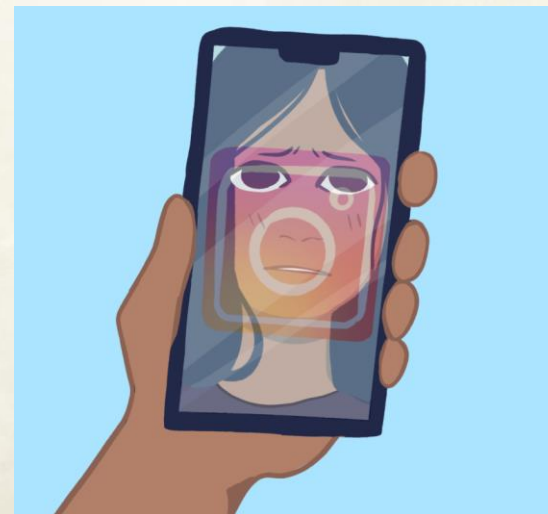
“Jesus’s incarnation is the highest complement the human body has ever been paid. God not only thought our bodies up and enjoyed putting several billion of them together; he made one for himself.”

Sam Allberry

# Embodied Interaction & Identity

## Virtual Disembodied Interaction

- Can lead us to see ourselves primarily as producers and/or consumers
- Can lead us to disconnect our identity from physical realities



# Embodied Interaction & Relationships

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:39b

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

Matthew 5:44



# Embodied Interaction & Relationships

## Virtual Disembodied Interaction

- Can lead us not see those immediately around us
- Can make it more tempting to treat others in unloving ways (due to “Online Disinhibition Effect”)



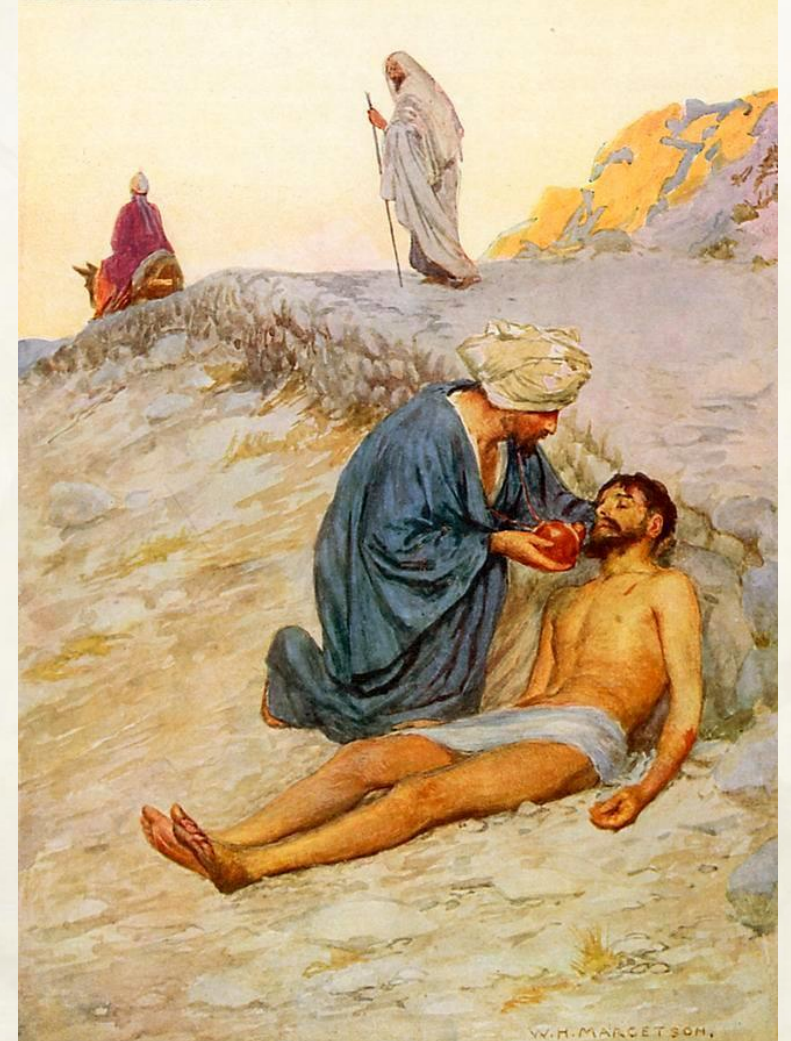
EMBODIED FAITH

# Embodied Interaction & Relationships

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers...

...Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Luke 10:29-30a, 36



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# Embodied Interaction & the Church

## The Universal Church:

the community of all true believers for all time

## The Local Church:

A gathering of people who...

- Receive the preaching/teaching of God's Word
  - Practice Baptism and the Lord's Supper
    - Love one another

# Embodied Interaction & the Church

## Elements of Worship Requiring Embodied Interaction

- Church (Greek: *ekklesia*) means “a called-out assembly or congregation”
- Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are physical, tangible experiences
- Commandments to
  - “greet one another with a holy kiss” (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, 1 Thess 5:26, 1 Peter 5:14)
  - Sing to each other – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...” (Col 3:16)

# Embodied Interaction & the Church

## Unique Benefit of In-Person Interaction

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”

Romans 1:11-12

“as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith...”

1 Thessalonians 3:10

“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.”

3 John 1:13

# Embodied Interaction & the Church

## Virtual Disembodied Interaction

- Online resources are a helpful supplement but not a replacement for in-person gathered worship



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# Embodied Interaction & the Church

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## Time Spent on Social Media (Avg. American)

- 2 hours and 24 minutes = 144 minutes a day

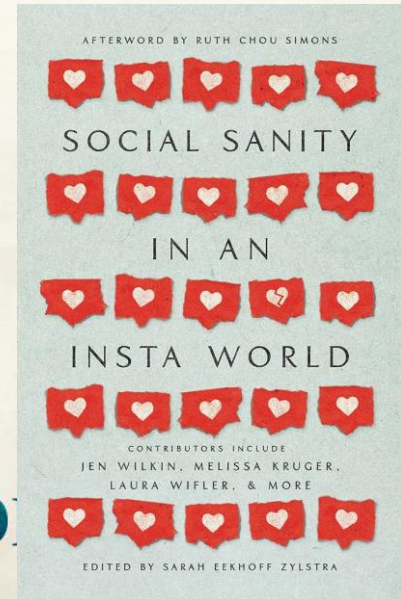
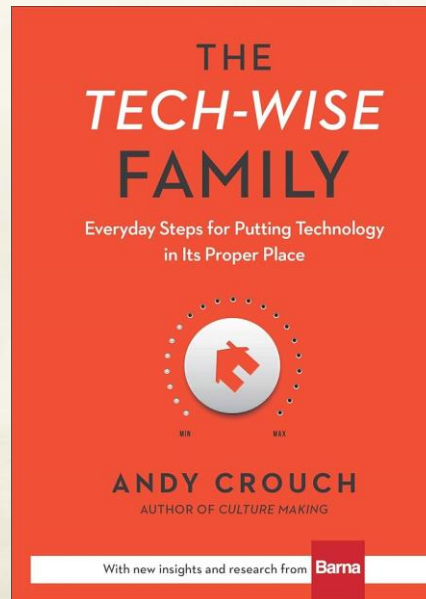
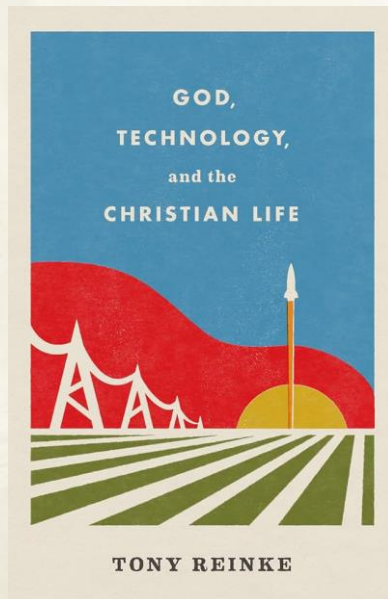
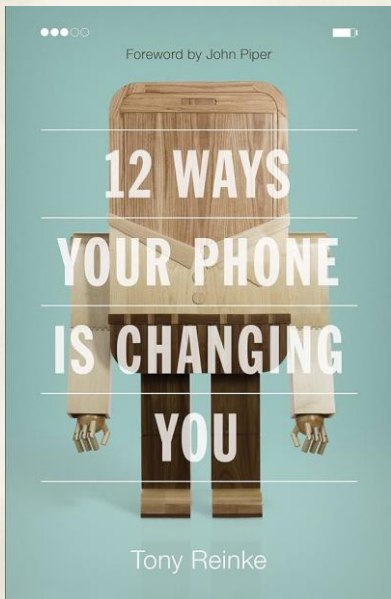
# Questions to Ask Ourselves

1. Is my use of this technology increasing my joy in God?
2. Is my use of this technology helping me to love others more?
3. How should I change how engage with these things...
  - ...for God's glory?
  - ...for my good?
  - ...for the good of others?

# Next Steps to Consider

You might want to try:

- Limiting accessibility
- Taking breaks – one hour a day, one day a week, one week a year
- Prioritizing in-person interaction with people of different perspectives
- Prioritizing in-person worship
- Further study:





“The mind is the only thing about human beings that’s worth anything. Why does it have to be tied to a bag of skin, blood, hair, meat, bones, and tubes? No wonder people can’t get anything done, stuck for life with a parasite that has to be stuffed with food and protected from weather and germs all the time. And the fool thing wears out anyway...”

Dr. Konigswasser in Kurt Vonnegut’s  
“Unready to Wear”, 1953

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