### The Social Media Me Series: 3 Weeks

By Tim Levert, Student Pastor at Vineyard Church in New Orleans

### Week 1

What social media reveals about you:

- who's important you
- what impresses you
- what inspires you
- what your goals are
- what you wish your life was really like
  - :: much of social media is fake
  - :: no one wants to see everyone's everyday stuff
  - :: real faithfulness to God happens in the everyday

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another. Galatians 6:16-26

#### THINK before you post:

- 1. Is it true?
- 2. Is it helpful?
- 3. Is it inspiring?
- 4. Is it necessary?
- 5. Is it kind?

### Four bonus questions:

- 1. Is this a "sacred" moment?
- 2. Is this me-centered? (Do you think too highly of yourself?)
- 3. Am I trying to impress? (Do you worry too much about what other people think?)
- 4. What does this post reveal about me? My faith? My values?

### Set up weeks 2 and 3:

Week 2: Be true to God Week 3: Be true to yourself

# Week 2

Recap week 1 ... point is, social media <u>reveals</u> things about us

- what might revealing pictures say about a person?
- what might lots of foul language reveal about a person?
- what might bullying posts reveal about a person?
- what might a bunch of TBHs or ask.fm reveal about a person?
- it might not reveal anything ... but it might

This week is the "be careful" week. Next week is the "be intentional" week.

- we're not saying, "don't do this or you're going to hell ..."
- we're saying be careful what you post shapes how people view you

#### Be true to God.

- inconsistencies
  - :: Bible passage in your profile ... 3 minutes later sexual gifs ... 3 minutes later Jesus post ... 3 minutes later hot girls ... 3 minutes later ...
- language
  - :: what might cursing and crude language reveal about you?
  - :: acronyms count af, fml, idgaf, nfw, stfu, (and the classic) wtf,
- messed up values
  - :: money and possessions
  - :: popularity and reputation
  - :: at risk behavior (alcohol, drugs, etc.)
  - :: horoscope (false spirits)
  - :: sexuality

Galatians 6:16-26 is the passage for the series, but for this week, focus on verse 24: Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

# Two tough questions:

- 1. Would you let Jesus follow you on social media?
  - look at your profile now
- 2. If you have the ability to create a perspective of what your life looks like, why is it not more Christlike?

Not about shame. About being true to who you say you are.

# Week 3

Recap week 1 ... point is, social media <u>reveals</u> things about us

- what might revealing pictures say about a person?
- what might lots of foul language reveal about a person?
- what might bullying posts reveal about a person?
- what might a bunch of TBHs or ask.fm reveal about a person?
- it might not reveal anything ... but it might

Galatians 6:16-26 is the passage for the series, but for this week, focus on verse 25: Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Be true to yourself and your life purpose.

- trust
- hope
- love
- passion
- purpose

Social media challenge – for the next 6 weeks:

- 1. Only post/repost/etc. things that reveal the Kingdom of God.
  - a. not just "Jesus" postings, but Kingdom values
- 2. Go back and delete any post that doesn't reveal the Kingdom of God.
- 3. At least once a day, post something encouraging to/about someone else.
- 4. At least once a week, post something encouraging to/about your parents.
- 5. At least once a week, post something about your faith.
- 6. At least once during the next 6 weeks, have a faith conversation with someone online.