

## The Wisdom Pyramid

Week 1: The Challenge (*Introduction & Chapters 1-3*)

March 19, 2025

Leader Guide

### Helpful Tips to make the most of this study:

1. Read the assigned chapters before each class.
2. Be prepared to discuss and share from your life (struggles, God's grace, what you've applied since the last class). We grow in community, so let's respect each other's perspectives and differences of opinion.
3. Commit to being present at each class.
4. Apply the truths and find accountability.

### Schedule

**Week 1: March 19** | The Challenge (*Chapters 1-3*)

**Week 2: March 26** | The Bible & The Church (*Chapters 4-5*)

**Week 3: April 2** | Books & Beauty (*Chapters 7-8*)

\*\*\*No Class April 9 and April 16 \*\*\*

**Week 4: April 23** | Nature (*Chapter 6*)

**Week 5: April 30** | Social Media (*Chapters 9-10*)

### Introduction: An Unwise Age

**Principle:** "Thoughtlessly adopting new technology is worldliness." (Tony Reinke, *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You*)

What's the purpose of the book and our class (pages 12, 23)?

What assumptions is the writer making at the outset? What is he building his case around?

What is technology? Is technology good, bad, or neutral?

What does McCracken claim is our calling as Christians living in the digital age (page 22)?

What are the primary two ways we can respond to the digital revolution (pages 22-23)?

State in your own words the three unhealthy habits that we have developed in this tech-saturated age, according to the writer (pages 17-20). Do you agree? Are there others he's missed?

Of the three poor habits of information “eating” which do you struggle with most?

What statistics or anecdotal evidence of the problems most concern you? What encourages you about living in this digital age?

Why does it seem like there is an inverse correlation between information and wisdom (“Our world has more and more information, but less and less wisdom,” page 11)?

How have you personally felt mental and spiritual sickness in the digital age?

## **Chapter 1: Information Gluttony**

**Principle:** We struggle under the weight of being constantly connected to a stream of unlimited information.

How does access to unlimited information, media, news, and AI bring out the worst in us?

*Why is it important to have a connection between information and action? Think of examples in your own life of where there is a connection between information and action, and where there isn't a connection.*

*Which of the “symptoms” of information overload discussed in this chapter do you experience the most? pages 28-37*

*What are some areas where you feel like access to too much information has been a burden or done more harm than good?*

## **Chapter 2: Perpetual Novelty**

**Principle:** We struggle to keep up with rapidly refreshed and alluring content.

How does the speed of information contribute to our spiritual sickness?

*In what practical ways can Christians model a slower, wiser place in a sped-up world?*

*Discuss specific, recent examples of how the speed of news reporting and dissemination has worked against truth. What can we do to guard against the spreading of “fake” or haphazardly reported news?*

*Why is being a “digital wanderer” so dangerous? What practical steps can we take to guard against aimless scrolling and clicking online?*

### **Chapter 3: "Look Within" Autonomy**

**Principle:** We are enticed by the prospect of being the arbiter of truth.

Where have you seen the "death of expertise" at work in your community or more broadly in your culture? Why is self-appointed expertise so common today, and why is it problematic?

Phrases like "your truth," "follow your heart," and "be true to yourself" are so common today that to challenge them can come across as hateful. How would you lovingly challenge these ideas - and the preeminent authority of the self - in a conversation with a friend who espouses them?

Where have Christians and churches been complicit in perpetuating individualism and the erroneous (but common) notion of the autonomous self? How can we make accountability within community appealing in an age of "you do you"?

***Next Week: Chapters 4 and 5***