

Understanding Digital Culture Bex Lewis



Confidence
in the Gospel

As part of the Evangelical Alliance's *Confidence in the Gospel* initiative we are hosting a series of five national consultations to wrestle with significant and timely issues relating to the gospel.

To ensure that as many people as possible can engage with this programme, the talks are being filmed and made available online.

Why not watch some of the videos, and use the questions provided, to explore these vital subjects with your small group or leadership team?

For more information, videos and resources visit eauk.org/confidence

Bex Lewis

Bex is passionate about helping Christians be a positive presence in the digital world. A member of the CODEC team, she is a research fellow in social media and online learning at the University of Durham. She is also responsible for The Big Bible Project.

Synopsis

[The PowerPoint Presentation that accompanies this talk can be viewed at <http://j.mp/understanddc>]

Entering the digital space is similar to going into any other mission field; you need to understand the culture and how that space works if you are going to communicate effectively within it.

In the past, many churches considered the online world to be primarily a social space. It was common for people to think that engaging with it too much would be a waste of time. This perception is now changing and most churches now realise that they need to engage with this space. However, it's common for people not to be sure how to do so.

In this presentation Bex Lewis provides an overview of the digital space, providing plenty of examples and practical ideas of how Christians – both as individuals and corporately – can engage with it.

Questions

- (1) What are the best and worst examples of Christians (individuals, churches, organisations) engaging in the digital space that we have experienced?
- (2) What personal experiences do we have of sharing our faith online?
- (3) What challenges or ideas did we pick up from the talk – both for our own online engagement, and for our church's?
- (4) Bex Lewis finished by asking three questions. How would we respond to each of them?:
 - a. What biblical values do we want to see in our digital world?
 - b. What do the fruits of the Spirit look like online?
 - c. What does it mean to share with grace?
- (5) What personal experiences do we have of sharing our faith online? Do we find it easier or more difficult to share our faith online?
- (6) Is there a disconnect between our online and offline lives? Is this a problem? How can we ensure that we, and those we are responsible for, are well-equipped to engage well in the digital space?