

Biblical Perspectives on Contemporary Issues: “Biblical Theology of Technology”

This is a very, very big, very broad topic I've read, I'm going to say 1500 pacesetters, over the last couple of years about technology both by non-Christians and Christians. And a long time ago, I read a very well-known book, well-regarded book called The Technological Society by a man named Jack Elul, which was written in 1953 and still shapes the way we think about technology to this day.

So if you want to know what's coming, here's the plan. I'm going to talk a little bit about the insight technology in general and apply it to the church without a lot of scripture for about ten minutes. And then we're going to look at two scriptures that describe technology. And they're both memorable because they both have the number 28. It's Job 28 and Isaiah 28. Those are things images in the Bible that describe technology and how we should view it. And then I'm going to give you three views of technology by Christians. And then finally I'm going to offer you a few ideas about how to use technology. Well, and we have a little Q&A time if you can possibly stay.

So I want to ask you to, recite what is for me, the main verse about technology. It's first Thessalonians 5:21. I'm going to teach it to you right now, and you're going to learn it really fast because it's a short, important verse. First Thessalonians 5:21 says, *test all things, hold fast. What is good?* Can you do it with me?

Test all things. Hold fast. What is good? Let's just say it one more time. *Test all things. hold fast. What is good?* And that's my main verse for technology. You got to test it and hold fast to what's good. So the issues in society today are profound and complex because nobody quite knows what to do since technology is changing all the time.

Since I first, developed some version of this talk, I exploded on the world just just a year ago, a little over a barely over a year ago. So we don't quite know what to do. But it's good to go back to the people thought longest and hardest about it. And one of them is a man named Marshall McLuhan.

You might have heard of him, and he has the famous phrase, the medium is the message. The medium is a message means don't just look at what's coming out of the medium. Ask how the medium itself is shaping you. For example, television is a medium that encourages passivity. Now you can overcome it. You can see every time a commercial comes on, I'm going to, organize the living room or I'm going to do some pull ups or I'm going to I'm going to straighten the pillows, or I'm gonna put clothes away and I'm going to figure out how long this lasts.

But the truth matter is television encourages slouching on the sofa eating peanuts. And if it's not peanuts, it's popcorn or it's chips, or if you are really profound... It might be guacamole. Right. So it encourages passivity. And I'm going to propose to you for now that computers and the internet and all that, iPhones, all the rest, encourage impatience and back pain.

So if you're trying to look something up on your phone and you have a two second delay, what happens? I can't believe how defective this technology can. I just remind you that in 1996, if your modem hooked up in seven seconds, it was called blindingly fast. And now a three second delay is on suffer a slow. It encourages impatience and it encourages back pain.

I don't have to explain that to you. McLuhan said that every medium encourages or fosters certain habits or sensibilities or dispositions. And if you read the literature on things like Google or Facebook or our cell phones, they have one after another, has a title like this is Google making us stupid? Is Facebook making us lonely? Because actually, there's some evidence.

The answer to both questions is yes, because Google gives us microscopic bits of information and you don't go deep, you just grab somebody opinion and Facebook just shows you pictures of people instead of actually hanging out with people. And TikTok makes us slave to dopamine hits. Because if you ever go on TikTok and I've done it just barely enough, it just feeds you mildly entertaining things every five seconds or so, which means you don't have to use your mind at all.

We're just going to feed you stuff now. I'm not trying to rip on TikTok. My problem Facebook is the one medium I use. Facebook tried to hook me on it a while ago and they said we know what he wants. He wants pictures of knives used for infighting and I did not click on them. I said to my wife, why do you why are they giving me knives for stabbing serrated knives that cut people?

I don't understand it. And they give up after two weeks. And then they sent me. They sent me pictures of motorcycle crashes and I thought, I'm just not interested in motor. And then they tried car crashes. Then they tried boat crashes. And I have to admit, I watched a few because I'm just so bizarre. And so then they fed me boat crashes for a while and then I fit, and then nothing.

Nothing. And finally they said, let's try Jim Gaffigan. And they got me and got me. And then they said, oh, Nick, by God, see if he likes Jim Gaffigan. He's going to like Nick Lagasse. And they got me again. So now I let myself do it once a month, and I look up and it's 4 a.m.. Just kidding.

It's it shapes you and they want to acquire you. They want you to be on their platform. They're going to give you something. And it's usually something very easy and addictive. And I'm not joking when I say that, the well designed for the sake of hooking people, the well designed social media have a lot in common with cocaine. Hit the same spots in the brain, and methamphetamines and marijuana and so forth. Gives you a hit for nothing. Do nothing and get a hit. That's what the media do. Now, I'm not trying to attack social media. I'm not against technology. You don't get that idea. I'm not going to say it as a whole, but every technology has pluses and minuses.

So is one person named Paul Rouleau said. When you invent the plane, you invent the plane crash. Another person said, yeah, when you invent the plane, you invent the destination wedding, which is even worse. I added the even worst part. Now when you invent streaming, you give access to people who can't come to church for whatever reason. And that's wonderful.

But you invent streaming. You also invent a place for people to, view the church as a place where you get information, transfer. So I didn't go to church, but I heard the sermon is something pastors hear a lot, which means I got the real deal. That info could download. But the truth matters. The real deal is actually worship and community and information is very important where people, the Word of God here, we emphatically are.

We always have been. We always will be. Praise God, and I'm so glad for people to listen online when they can't come. But it also excuses things like, you know, dedicating yourself to other things on Sunday morning, whatever those other things might be. And some people have told me, I come to church online and that allows me to clean my house while I go to church.

And I ironed my clothes, and I wash the dishes and I get I get everything out of it. Well, I'm not sure I agree. So, there's a woman named Lisa Miller who wrote an article in the Washington Post that says religious authorities are wrong. Technology is good for the church. And the article, which is well written, goes on to point out that, if we don't give information online, we're behind the times.

We're just going to lose people. And if you don't have it from your church or you're going to other church, because that's the way it is now, there's a man named I'm not kidding. LM lowercase us. That's his name. Don't hold it against him. He's really smart. Is a dedicated Christian. He says that this kind of reasoning is what he calls the Borg complex.

Now, I don't know if you know, but 30 years ago was a really scary episode of Star Trek in which the Borg, who are half machines, half humans, a few of you know about this, you're nodding and smiling at me. Said resistance is futile. We're going to take over the human race. And the cosmos said that's what people say about technology.

Resistance is futile if you don't succumb, you will be overtaken. Now, what they mean is something like this if you're in a country that doesn't have automobiles, your people are going to want them. And so the jobs are just not going to stay in your country. So make cars, okay? That makes some sense. Cars are useful. Although somebody said once you invent the car, the phenomenon of church discipline ends because some of you just drive down the road to another church, say how mean those people are that church and you're not known anymore.

But cars are good on the whole. And then we said that about nuclear weapons. You know, if we don't build nuclear weapons, the Nazis will. And that's true. And then they said, if we don't build I, China will. And nobody knows what's going to happen with AI. But resistance is futile. You've got to do it. Because if you don't, somebody else will and you will lose.

Now, the people who write the most, the wisest Christians who write about, who write about these matters, say we really don't know. We don't know where I was going to go. I'm just going to tell you, I've been running a little experiment lately, and that is, I type in the name of people I know really well, and I asked chat GPT who they are.

Would you like to know who my wife is? She is an international pop star who also excels at jazz music. And is well known for acts of charity to indigent children in the Third World. That's what they said the first time I said, I'm going to look it up again. And they said, the second time, seconds later, Debbie Doriani is a woman we've never heard of.

And then I put in one of my children. We have no idea who she is the first time. Next time she's engaged in international relief work in various African countries and has saved thousands and thousands of children seconds apart. Now, most of us know that that there's wonderful things and difficult things. And so the Christians say, what you have to do is learn to resist technology.

When somebody says, use it, use it, use it, or else get on it, do it, do it, do it, or else you say, you know what? I'm going to pause. I'm going to, you know, say it with me. I'm going to test all things and hold fast what is good. You did terribly at that test. Things hold fast.

What is good, right? So if you seen rebelling against technology, I teach most of the time in a seminary, and some of the profs are rising up to rebel against a platform called Calendly, which sets up your

calendar, and it takes four hours to set up what you can do on email in 44 seconds. But it's a cool program.

And then we have another one called canvas. And canvas is really awesome and only takes five times as long as grading things with your hand. but it keeps your records perfectly and it calculates the grades, except when it calculates some incorrectly or erases all the grades for reasons nobody can understand. And they know it's a bad program.

So they update it and they say we only update it once a year, but there are only two semesters a year, so you're updating it 50% of the time. Which everybody hates. So test all things and hold fast to what is good. I'm going to say, especially hold fast to what is good. And that is. Incarnational life together.

Jesus did not send. Jesus did not wait until we had video capabilities and send us down a series of videos. He came in the flesh, and that should tell us that the flesh matters. And so personal convenience should not be the most important thing. As one person said, there is no inevitability to technology as long as we are willing to contemplating, as long as we're willing to contemplate what is happening.

Jacque Oluwole wrote the book. The Technological Society said, you've got to resist this. This pressure to simply use the technology or be swept away. We've got to pause and ask questions. Now, other people have said what we need to do is distinguish between, efficiency. And effectiveness. So I don't know about you, but, do you get a good feeling when you, tear through about 22 emails and just rip through them and answer them all really fast?

You'd like that feeling? Yeah, 54 emails, 27 texts. You may feel good because you went really fast, but the question is, is that what you should be devoting your life to? So some people say efficiency is the enemy of effectiveness. That is to say, efficiency says, let's do things fast. And we got them done fast. But if but effectiveness is doing what needs to be done. Which is often slow. The great things of life, the things, the things that make people say things like, if we get this done in this in the next year, if we just get this one thing done in our business, we'll have had a good year. And that one thing is usually not answering an email or a text. Get the big things done.

Okay, that's the big picture. Now, what does the Bible have to say about technology? And the first thing it says is ready one, two, three test all things hold fast. What is good. All right. Now there are two passages in the Bible that describe technology. And as I said, blessedly, if you have a, you know, flawed memory like me, they both have the number 28.

And the first one is Job 28. Would you turn with me to Job 28? This is a description of the first great technology that wowed mankind, probably 3500 years ago. Most people think job was written around the same time as, well, maybe 4000 years ago, around the same time as Abraham, or maybe around the same time as Moses.

Nobody's really quite sure it doesn't come with a date. So this is what it says. God's word, Job 28, verse one. The theme is mining mines going into the earth and digging out the resources of the earth, which was new a long time ago. This is what it says. This is Job talking about it, impressed by it.

Surely there is a mine for silver and a place for gold that they refine. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore, and puts an end to darkness and searches out the farthest limit, the ore in gloom and deep darkness. It opens shafts in the valley away from where anyone lives. They're

forgotten by travelers. They hang in the air. The idea is these shafts go vertical and people are held by ropes to dig out the ore. Gold, the silver, the iron. While suspended in the air above the mine shaft. They hang in the air. They swing to and fro. As for the earth, out of it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire. Stones are the place of sapphires, and it has the dust of gold that hath no bird of prey knows the falcons eyes. Eye has not seen it. The proud beast have not trodden it. The lion has not passed over it. Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots. He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing meaning jewels, dams up streams so they do not trickle.

In other words, they control the water flow through the rocks of the earth. Is deeply impressed by this, and in his eyes sees every precious thing.

And then verse 12, but where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? In other words, you can dig up gold and silver all day long. But do you understand what you're doing? Do you know how to use gold and silver and iron and precious stones?

Now Isaiah 28 answers the question to some degree, and this now is technology from many years later. Isaiah around roughly 700 A.D. and he says this in Isaiah 28, verse 23 and following he says,

Give ear, hear my voice, give attention, hear my speech. So you can talk about technology. Does he who plows for sowing plow continually? The answer to that question is no. You plow and then you stop plowing. But then he imagines somebody who doesn't have much wisdom, does he? Who plows for sowing plow continually? No. Does he continually open and harrow his ground? No. But the question implies that some people, once they discover the plow and the idea of leveling the ground, can you imagine? Just get obsessed with it. They just keep plowing and plowing. And if we just get this land level, we'll have a really great crop. Can you imagine people doing that? Can you imagine if nod your head at me, if you could imagine it getting overcome with a perfect plowing job once plowing exists? No, he says, when he's leveled its surface, does he not scatter dill and so cumin, and put wheat and rose and barley in its proper place. And emmer is the border.

Yes, that's what he does. You plow and then you plant, for he is rightly instructed. His God teaches him. And you think, well, wait a second. God teach us farmers how to farm. Yes, God teaches us how to be wise with the technology of our day. That's what he's saying. Plowing was new and threshing. He goes on to talk about that dill is not thrashed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over, and it would destroy it.

But dill is beaten out with a stick and coming with a rod as one crushed grain. For bread. The answer is no, no, he does not crush it forever. When he drives his cartwheel over it with his horses, he does not crush it. What he's saying is, this is what we know about farming. Technology in our day sounds very alien to us, but he's saying this is the way farming is done.

This is the way you get the goods from the earth. And then he says, this also comes to the Lord of hosts. He is wonderful and counsel and excellent wisdom. What he's saying is very simple. Whoever designed threshing and plowing and so forth, God gives people wisdom to use the technology correctly. The technology of the day, which was plowing and threshing and planting, and we need it for our day as well.

So what do Christians say about the way to use technology? There are three views. Is there Christian writers, Christ followers, disciples? Whatever word you want to use. Number one, view number one is

that technology is intrinsically troublesome because it empowers human autonomy. And people think that they can create a world without God. And once technology is cut loose, this is just a loophole. No one control controls it and everyone is looking for an upgrade. Atomic power, air conditioning, airplanes, the internet, cable TV which was very hot for a while and now everybody hates it.

Number one, number two and have the book here. The single most pro technology Christian I've ever read. He's a good writer, good Christian man. He says technology is essentially good because it develops the potential that God put in the earth. What he means then, is this all technology is a development of something God put in the world.

So wheels are technology. And who invented round? God did. And information technology is good because and I've read this in a variety of places. I don't know it, but I've read in a variety of places. There is more information stored up in one body in our genetic code, and the way it's worked out in our body, than there.

Then this is what they say. All the information stored in all the computers on Earth right now, there's more information about how to run the body, and God invented that. So he poured it into our genes and our chromosomes and the various proteins in the double helix. And that means that information technology is good and connectivity is good, because God invented the human brain, which has more connections than there are stars in the universe.

If you were here a month ago, I talked about how many stars are on the universe. The answer is two times ten to the 23rd power, which is a lot of stars. It's really a lot. But there are more connections in your brain than there are stars in the universe. If you talk to a baby for 30 seconds during those 30s while you're talking to a seven week old baby and they're smiling, you look in your eye, they they form thousands of new brain connections just talking to you for 30s or smiling.

So fission and fusion and fire and circles and wheels. It's all invented by God. All we're doing is harnessing and using it. We hope with wisdom. Now Frankie says, look, it doesn't happen right away. He says there are four stages to technology. If you're a note taker, this is your moment. The first thing that happens is a technology is created or discovered.

Make something you don't know what to do with it. Then. And then we produce it. We see if we can produce this at a scale that's feasible for many people to use. And the price goes down, as you know, as this happens, and when you make it and you make it efficiently, you make it well so it doesn't break the third thing that happens is people adopt it.

But the fourth thing is the key, and that is we adapt it, we adopt it, and then we adapt it and we say, oh, this is good in these ways and destructive in these ways. The internet is good and Facebook is good. Except they got me hooked on Jim Gaffigan videos. And so I need to not look at it when I'm tired and need a little bit of empty minded.

Chuckling I've got to be careful about that. I'm going to watch it. The third view, which is maybe the one I'm inclined to is that technology is mostly neutral, useful but deeply problematic. And we have to ask the question who made it and what were they making it for? Therefore, we might say nuclear power is good, but nuclear weapons are not good and cars are good. But, designed to addict you. Platforms on the internet are not good. Depends on who's making it, what their goals are. So we would say so many things are good, glasses are good, contacts are good. And by the way, Lasik is the best of all.

Cancer treatments are good. Knee scopes are good. Artificial knees, artificial hips, artificial solid shoulders, MCL and ACL and travel and planes and cars. They're all good, but be careful. Some things that are kind of neutral can lead you astray. Like, like the many of us who love music but don't want to learn to play is one of the dangerous technologies I see.

It is they make us more passive. Why should I learn to play the piano or the fiddle or the guitar? If I can just create a Spotify station? I really like? People don't seem to be learning how to play instruments as much as they used to, because there's so much available so easily.

Technology. Boy, you can cross the Atlantic Ocean in seven hours instead of seven weeks. And by the way, your chances of dying are a lot lower. So it's really good, isn't it? On the other hand, sitting still is not so good. Sitting still on a plane is not so good, and traveling constantly is probably bad for most people.

And so we have to test all things and hold fast to what is good. My biggest concern this is now me speaking, not the various books I've read, is that technology pushes us away from the great fact that all the great things in life, all the best things in life, take enormous effort. Much of the time. I'm repeating from this morning, marriage is good, but it takes work and parenting is good.

But you gotta work hard to be a good parent. You gotta listen to your kids and be patient and develop skills. And technology is, immediate. Often it's not learning how to play a musical instrument. It's touching Spotify. That's what a lot of technology does. Now, people ask me beforehand, like, before the service. so are you gonna tell us when we can give phones to our children?

And I thought, well, I wasn't going to, but I think I will now, so let's talk about just practical things a little bit. So second verse is very important to me is James 3:13. It says *this who is wise and understanding among you by his good conduct let him show his good works. Who's wise and understanding among you? Let him show up by his conduct.* That's what it says.

So let's ask the question are cell phones got one somewhere? Are cell phones good? And I've been asking campus workers for about five, six years how many hours they think their students spend on their phones. Now the the surveys say, the average college student spends. Are you ready? Six hours a day on their phone. And I've been asking college campus workers. And a few years ago they said, yeah, six, but maybe eight. Now, one of the consequences of that is that students flunk out because they don't do their work. And you know how much college costs? 15,000, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, \$75,000 a year?

That's a big bill for using your cell phone. We adopt and then we adapt and we try to pull it in. And what's interesting is, as I've asked, campus workers more recently, they say we think it's going down. We think that they have students have begun to discern how dangerous it is to them. And we think the average is now four hours. And I ask this of, of, campus workers who've been on Christian campus workers, you know, our people who've been on campus for maybe 5 or 10 years. And they say we think it's down because they're catching on about how dangerous it is, and we're thankful for that. A friend just say, you know, let's not just rundown students all the time.

One of the issues that baby boomers sort of and, you know, 60 plus folk tend to think that sleep is evil. Sleep as little as you can. And people who are 35 and under say, yeah, and we don't buy that. We think

you should sleep more. So this is not trying to criticize people who are young. They're wiser than older people are frequently.

But it is true that there is a lot of loss for people who are on their phones too much. Okay. The particular question people wanted me to answer is, at what age do you give a cell phone to your child? And the answer is 14 years, two months and 17 days.

And I'm not exactly joking, because parents will know the day when their child is ready, but it is probably around the age of 14 or 15. That's a study after study after study shows. Now, that doesn't mean you don't give a child a phone at all. You can. There are phones that have extremely limited access, like 10 or 20 phone numbers, and you can't dial up the internet and so forth.

And it's expensive and people give. In fact, grandparents sometimes give with parents approval, permission to 11 year olds and 12 year olds who are trying to get their soccer team or their volleyball team organized phones now because somebody said, we hear the word. But it is, it's been established over and over and over again that the incidence of depression and suicide and anxiety has gone up right around the time the cell phone was invented, 2000, 2000, ten sorry, 20 1011 1213 and people in higher education started to notice that things like a call for safe space, which we now kind of mock, the calls for safe space and trigger warnings and barring unsafe speakers to college campuses, started to arise about five years after cell phones were invented. Because you can cure it. You're an experience. You only hear what you want to hear. So students are not exposed to ideas they don't agree with on one hand, which is bad for them. No resilience. And the other problem is you see curated pictures of your friends on the beach with their hair perfect, and you're and you're just presenting an idea of who you are that makes everybody else feel bad.

And I look back at my own posts on Facebook, only medium I really use. And I think there's some, there's some awesome stuff going on there. You know, I don't post pictures of myself falling over the wheelbarrow that I didn't realize was there. While I'm mowing the grass. It's just that's not there. But sitting on a cannon in Stuttgart. With the rain pouring down, showing how tough I am that's up there.

And among adults, it's like, We always knew he was defective. But with teenagers, with teenagers, it's hard to distinguish how awesome your friends seem to be from how awesome they actually are. Okay, I want to leave time for Q&A, so I'm just going to spend five more minutes talking about a few takeaways. The first, take it.

I want to give you is connected to my study on Wednesday nights. And I and I say that when you go to apply the Bible, there's basically four questions people should ask. And the four questions are what should I do? What's my duty? Where's the law of God? Say, that's number one. Number two is what does God say about my character, who I am, who I should be, who I am in Christ?

Question number three is what goals should I have? Where should I go? What purposes should we pursue together? And the last one is how can we see the world the right way? Now? Most of the time we spent on the last question is discerning. I've tried to help you discern about technology, but I want to just spend a few minutes on the first three questions.

Is there any duty that comes to us with regard to technology and especially social media? I believe there is on social media, the number one rule is tell the truth, tell the truth. Don't make yourself seem more

awesome than you are. Don't run people down, speak the truth and love. Be a good communicator in general. Don't just speak, but listen.

Remember we should be slow to speak, quick to listen, listen well. When somebody posts something, don't think what an idiot. Listen to them graciously. Maybe they didn't express themselves really well. Maybe you disagree with them, but be kind. Give grace to those who hear. As the Bible says, communicate well. Follow the basic rules. Follow the basic rules. Now, the rules include not just words, but also sexual purity.

So we have, Dan Roberts is an elder leader in our church who's also one of our political leaders in, our fair state. And he reminded me just today that you can get a filter on every phone. You can just you can just get it on there and you can make sure anybody under the age of 18 or over the age of 18 cannot watch pornography on your phone.

But what he wants to do, his goal, which he's persuaded me, it's a good one. His goal is to persuade entities like Google and Apple, which make a whole bunch of phones to automatically load porn filters on every phone, so you don't have to figure out how to put the porn filter on there for yourself

It's on. And if enough states say we require it, maybe Alabama will be one of them. Then pretty soon Apple and Google will say we, it's just easier to put it on all of our phones, and the social pressure may actually mount up as people see the evils of pornography. And eventually every phone will have a filter on it.

Wouldn't that be great? So follow the basic rules of purity and honesty and listening. Well, number one, number two, character. Ask yourself the question if you're using technology, what is it doing to your character? I said a little while ago that in my view, our approach to technology makes us impatient. You may agree or disagree, but you certainly agree with me that the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control.

If your use of technology is not making you joyful or peaceful, instead it's making you angry. If the way you watch TV or consume the news makes you angry that people disagree with you all the time, then you should stop using that medium because the fruit of the spirit is joy and peace and kindness and gentleness and self-control. And a lot of the media promote boasting and anger and judgment and so forth, envy, self-promotion and more.

Final question is, where are we going? And the answer is, I hope we're going toward full engagement with the world. So if you find that your technology keeps you from the world, put your technology away. I have a personal rule that my family has adopted, and that rule is never watch when you can play, never watch when you can play, never watch a basketball game.

When you can play basketball, never watch a soccer match. If somebody says you want to play soccer, never watch a tennis match. If somebody says, let's go play tennis, never watch. If you can play now, I don't know if you would buy that or not, but it's my way. And I've been trying to inculcate in my students for a number of years.

It's my way of saying, don't be passive, live in this world, learn a musical instrument, read a book, get out there and do something. Enjoy the world. Slow down, slow down. Test all things. Hold fast. What is

good? We're not against technology. I think Frankie is right. So much technology develops things. God put in the world. Circles and information and water and nuclear power.

We're not against technology. We want to use it wisely, test it, use it according to God's will, God's ways, so we can thrive more by it.

Let's pray.

Heavenly father, we admit that we certainly don't know everything. We're thankful. I'm thankful that as I read about technology, I found that people had meditated on your word long and hard and written books and articles trying to guide your people.

I thank you for people like Jack Llewellyn and Tony Reiki and others who, who've worked so hard to help us think through the right way to use technology, but give us discernment, teach us, make us wise. As Jobe said, teach us how to be good farmers and good engineers in this world. I post the test to do it together, to live our lives out together.

Lord, we know that we fail in all these things and so we do ask all as always, that you would forgive us and extend your grace to us. Make us more and more like yourself. Unite us yourself through faith.

We pray in Jesus name,

Amen.