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#Struggles: Following Jesus in a Selfie-Centered World Craig Groeschel

Focus In today's world, it is increasingly common to have filtered communication. We often portray ourselves to others in a way that is not authentic. When we turn to Jesus, He removes the veil and helps us live in freedom.

Fun Do you take a lot of selfies? What is the most creative selfie you've ever taken?

Review Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:13–18

- **We live in a selfie-centered world.**

People take over 93 million selfies each day. Technology is changing the way people communicate. Communication through technology can be less authentic because it is edited and filtered. People portray the “self” they want others to see. Even without technology, this principle is true. People often filter the way they want to be seen by others. The more filtered our lives become, the less authentic we are.

- **We often live behind a veil.**

In 2 Corinthians 3:13, Paul writes about the veil Moses wore when he came down from Mount Sinai. He wore the veil to conceal the fact that the glory of God was fading. We often do the same thing. We wear veils to conceal who we really are. People are very insecure, and it is not human nature to be open and transparent. Even Adam and Eve hid in the garden and tried to conceal rather than live transparently.

- **The veil is taken away through Jesus.**

The key to not living behind a veil goes deeper than just being honest, posting authentic things to social media, or being more open. The key is that only by turning to Jesus is the veil removed. 2 Corinthians 3:16–18 says that the veil is taken away when we turn to Christ, and where His Spirit is, there is true freedom.

Group Dynamics Idea As the group leader, you set the tone for openness, honesty, and transparency within your group. The more guarded and “polished” your answers or interactions are, the more they will be with the group. The more real, vulnerable, and transparent you are, the more the people in your group will be.

Discuss

1. There are many benefits and also challenges of social media. What do you think are some of the benefits? What are some of the challenges it creates?
2. Why do you think it is so difficult for people to be open and honest? Why do people often portray their life through a veil?
3. What are some of the common veils, or filtered images, people use to portray themselves to others? This could be through social media or just simply in daily life.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 3:13–18. What stands out to you in this passage? How do you see this principle working in people’s lives today?
5. What are the veils that you try to show to others? What are the things that keep you from being honest and vulnerable with others?
6. Pastor Craig said, “We may impress people with our strengths, but we connect through our weaknesses.” What do you think about this statement?
7. When you are obsessed with what others think about you, you easily forget what God thinks about you. How can you take time to focus on God’s perspective of you?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- We live in a selfie-centered world where communication is increasingly filtered.
- We often live behind a veil because of our insecurities.
- The veil is taken away through Jesus.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to take away the veil. Help us to live honestly and openly before You. Help us to always care about what You think and not worry about what other people think. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time to do something together as a group. Some groups decide to do a potluck and have a fun meal. Other groups decide to do a project to help bless and minister to someone in the community. Whatever you choose, this is an optimal time to engage in something beyond the normal group meeting.