

Hot Topics: AI - Episode 428

Our culture is experiencing a massive shift fueled by one piece of technology: *artificial intelligence*.

Yep, we're going there.

How might AI impact ministry? How are churches adapting to (or resisting) the AI movement? *What does AI even have to do with church?*

In this episode, Amy and Sean are joined by Paul Alexander, Executive Pastor at Sun Valley Community Church in Arizona and a member of the Unstuck team, and Mika Casey, Executive Director of IT at Sun Valley.

They discuss key questions and changes surrounding AI, how to use AI tools in your ministry (and what guardrails to put in place) and what's at stake for the church in the era of AI.

Key Quotes

- "We're not afraid of technology; rather, we kind of have a posture of utilizing it to help people meet, know and follow Jesus."
- "Allowing our staff to use AI as a tool, ironically, has actually freed up their time to be more people-facing instead of screen-facing."
- "This is a tool to help support our work, not replace our work."
- "Small churches have been able to catch up because of some of the tools that are available to them now."
- "God has not given us a spirit of fear. We don't need to be afraid of this."
- "Challenge the people in your church who are working in this space to think through how they might use their ability and experience to advance the kingdom."
- "As a missionary, we cannot remove ourselves from culture. We have to jump in, do the messy work to figure it out and help people meet Jesus. We can't ignore this."

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. How are we planning for the ways AI may impact our community (i.e., a significant shift in the economy, a deeper desire for authentic relationships, etc.)?
2. What are the guidelines around using AI that we've created for our staff?
3. Who are the people in our church who work in this field? When will we invite them to the table to help us figure out the wisest ways to use AI?

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