What Is the Metaverse and How Do I Protect My Kids? – July 2022

Metaverse: *(noun)* An umbrella term used to describe many computer-generated environments and experiences that augment reality or immerse people in virtual reality. The Metaverse is man's creation, so we can make our own reality that can transcend God's order.

Some of the other names for the Metaverse: *Virtual Reality, Omniverse, Augmented Reality, Blended Reality, Extended Reality, Mixed Reality, Multiverse*

This is not just about games, entertainment, or novelty, there will be broad reaching impacts across society. *"The metaverse will contain environments where we will earn money, forge relationships and have all sorts of different experiences that could enrich our lives or quite the opposite. Opinions diverge, but all those who think about the metaverse agree that it will have profound impact on how our societies function, our economies run, and our political systems operate."* – Klaus Schwab, The Great Reset

God also has a plan for us, that will conflict with many things in the Metaverse…

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

How do I protect my kids?

"…do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the good…" Romans 12:2

- Manage your child's usage of the Metaverse
    - Limit
    - Discuss
    - Be involved and manage
- Christians must live, act, and work differently in the Metaverse, just like we do everywhere else
    - Be charitable
    - Follow the 10 Commandments
    - Share the love of Jesus
- What happens in the Metaverse does NOT just stay in the Metaverse
    - Sin
    - Identity / 'Role-playing"
    - Relationships
    - Emotions

Prioritize God's Order

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

- Spend time in the non-Metaverse world: Nature, God's creation
- Mass, sacraments, social events, community building
- Build up strong Catholic families and communities around you in close physical proximity
- Corporal works of mercy

Terminology Associated with the Metaverse

- **Augmented Reality** – Ex. Pokemon Go. An interactive experience of a real-world environment where the objects that reside in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated perceptual information, sometimes across multiple sensory modalities: visual, auditory, haptic, or smell.

- **Avatar** – your character or digital representation in the virtual world. Word origin/meaning in Hinduism: *the descent of a deity to the earth in an incarnate form or some manifest shape; the incarnation of a god*

- **Bitcoin** - The first cryptocurrency / decentralized currency - directly trade funds person-to-person, transaction is validated and confirmed by the entire network through blockchain technology

- **Blockchain** - A system that can build decentralized applications and programs through data being stored across a network of computers through a digital ledger system. This is the backbone of digital currency

- **DAO** – Decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) are community-led digital organizations that run on blockchain technology. They are member-owned communities without centralized power of leadership yet provide a safe way to collaborate with strangers and commit funds to a specific cause.

- **DApps** – Decentralized applications

- **Decentraland** – Decentralized land (digital land) - $110M in virtual real estate

- **Decentralization** - Distribution of ownership—the idea that the metaverse will not be regulated or run by a single corporation or individual.

- **DeFi** – Decentralized Finance – no intermediary/bank (central authority), not government issued/controlled (no central authority), no single point of failure, hard to shutdown/manipulate/control

- **Digital twins** - Physical spaces that have been cloned in the virtual world to promote familiarity and efficiency.

- **Ethereum** (2014) – DIY (do-it-yourself) platform for Dapps –if you develop an app on this platform it is decentralized, so you don't control it. Goal is to decentralize the Internet. Digital currency is called Ether. Ether means the sky beyond the clouds.

- **ICO** – Initial Coin Offering – Like a company IPO (initial public offering), this is when a crypto currency is introduced.

- **Metaverse** (*another definition*) - The metaverse is just a digital layer of our lives…an extension of our physical lives into the digital realm. What happens in one affects the other and vice versa. The metaverse is a new dimension—a virtual dimension that sits on top of physical reality. I look at it as the next phase of the consumer internet.

- **NFT** – Non-Fungible Token - a non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a blockchain, a form of digital ledger, that can be sold and traded. Types of NFT data units may be associated with digital files such as photos, videos, and audio.

- **Stentrode** – Company that is in clinical trials for human brain computer interfaces using a stent-like device that is implanted in the blood vessels within the brain.

- **Transhumanism** - The belief or theory that humans can evolve beyond its current physical and mental limitations, especially by means of science and technology.

- **Web3** - A decentralized, blockchain-based internet that will enable a seamless fusion of virtual and physical life.