

IS IT TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO CHANGE?

SUMMER SERIES WITH RCC





**MEDIA AND CHURCH:
HELPFUL GUIDE OR DISTORTED
VOICE IN SEEING TRUTH? †**



Series Purpose:

Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

The News

As Christians, we have a gift of seeing this life through two lenses.

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- **Small Lens**

As Christians, we have a gift of seeing this life through two lenses.

- **Small Lens - Our view of our moment**

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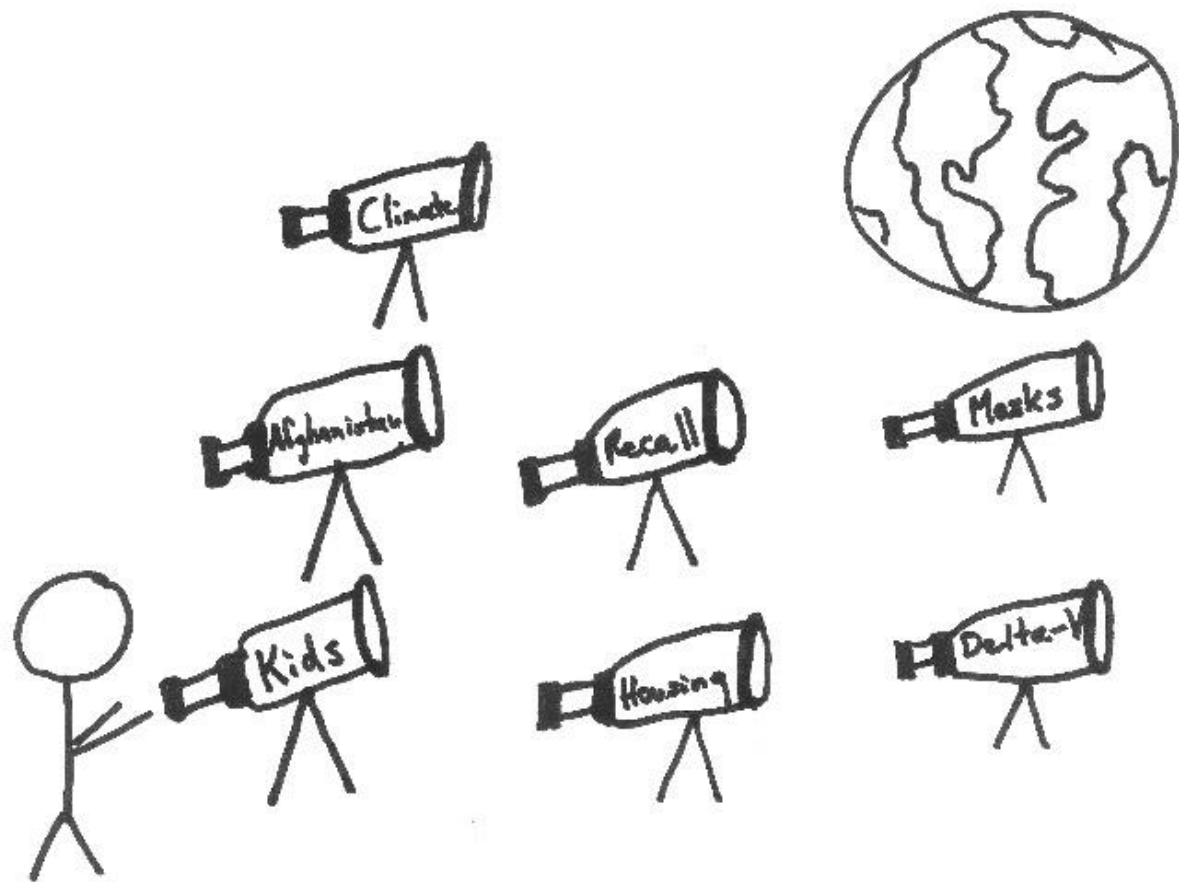
- Small Lens - Our view of our moment
- **Big Lens**

As Christians, we have a gift of seeing this life through two lenses.

- Small Lens - Our view of our moment
- **Big Lens - God's covenant with his creation**

God's truth is the guide to this broken world, which fights for our attention and emotions, leading us to live with confidence when hope seems small.

Small Lens



Small Lens

The struggle to identify fact
vs. fiction is growing

56% of Americans agree with the statement that "Journalists and reporters are **purposely trying to mislead people** by saying things they know are false or gross exaggerations."

58% think that "most news organizations are **more concerned with supporting an ideology or political position** than with informing the public."

Post 2020 Election - figures had deteriorated even further, with **57% of Democrats trusting** the media and **only 18% of Republicans.**

Trust in social media has hit an
all-time low of 27%.

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- How did we get here?

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- **It was - Network and Cable News, Local News, Local Newspapers**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- It was - Network and Cable News, Local News, Local Newspapers
- **It is -**
 - **100+ social media platforms**
 - **Countless online news sites/blogs**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- **Social media is built on two things**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- Social media is built on two things
 - 1. Short term emotional responses**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

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 - **Same neural response as food, exercise, love, sex, gambling, and drugs**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- Social media is built on two things
 1. Short term emotional responses
 - Same neural response as food, exercise, love, sex, gambling, and drugs
 - **Personal brands built around it**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- Social media is built on two things
 1. Short term emotional responses
 2. **The algorithm that keeps you going**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- Social media is built on two things
 1. Short term emotional responses
 2. **The algorithm that keeps you going**
 - **This makes money (ad revenue)**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- **This world has exploited this system and implemented it across many news outlets**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- This world has exploited this system and implemented across many news outlets
 - **Emotionally charged headlines**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

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 - Emotionally charged headlines
 - **Opinion often included**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- This world has exploited this system and implemented across many news outlets
 - Emotionally charged headlines
 - Opinion often included
 - **Facts can be secondary to brand**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- What is this doing to us?

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- What is this doing to us?
 - **Manipulating our desire to make sense of the world**

Small Lens - The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing

- What is this doing to us?
 - Manipulating our desire to make sense of the world
 - **Keeping our emotions on high alert**

What is this doing to us?

What is this doing to us?

**Encourages us
to disconnect**

What is this doing to us?

**Encourages us
to disconnect**

**Encourages us
to fight
(us v. them)**

What is this doing to us?

**Encourages us
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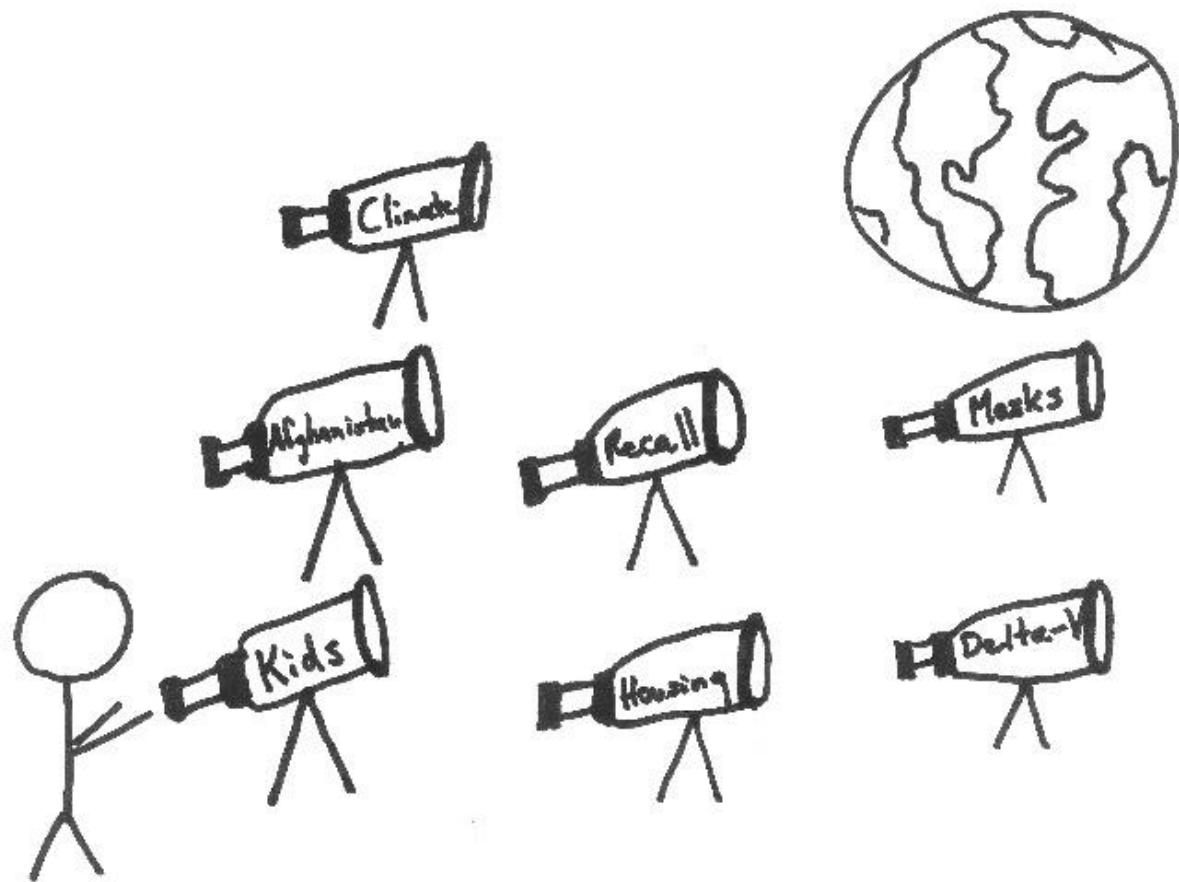
Small Lens

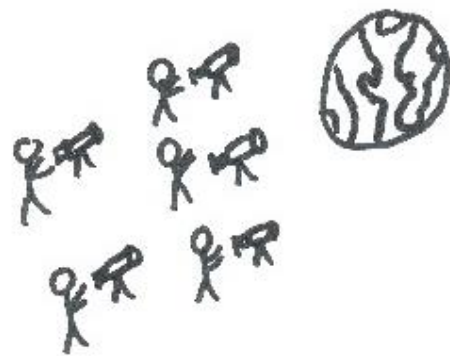
The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing...
and it's diminishing our hope.

Small Lens

The struggle to identify fact vs. fiction is growing...
and it's diminishing our hope.

Big Lens





Big Lens

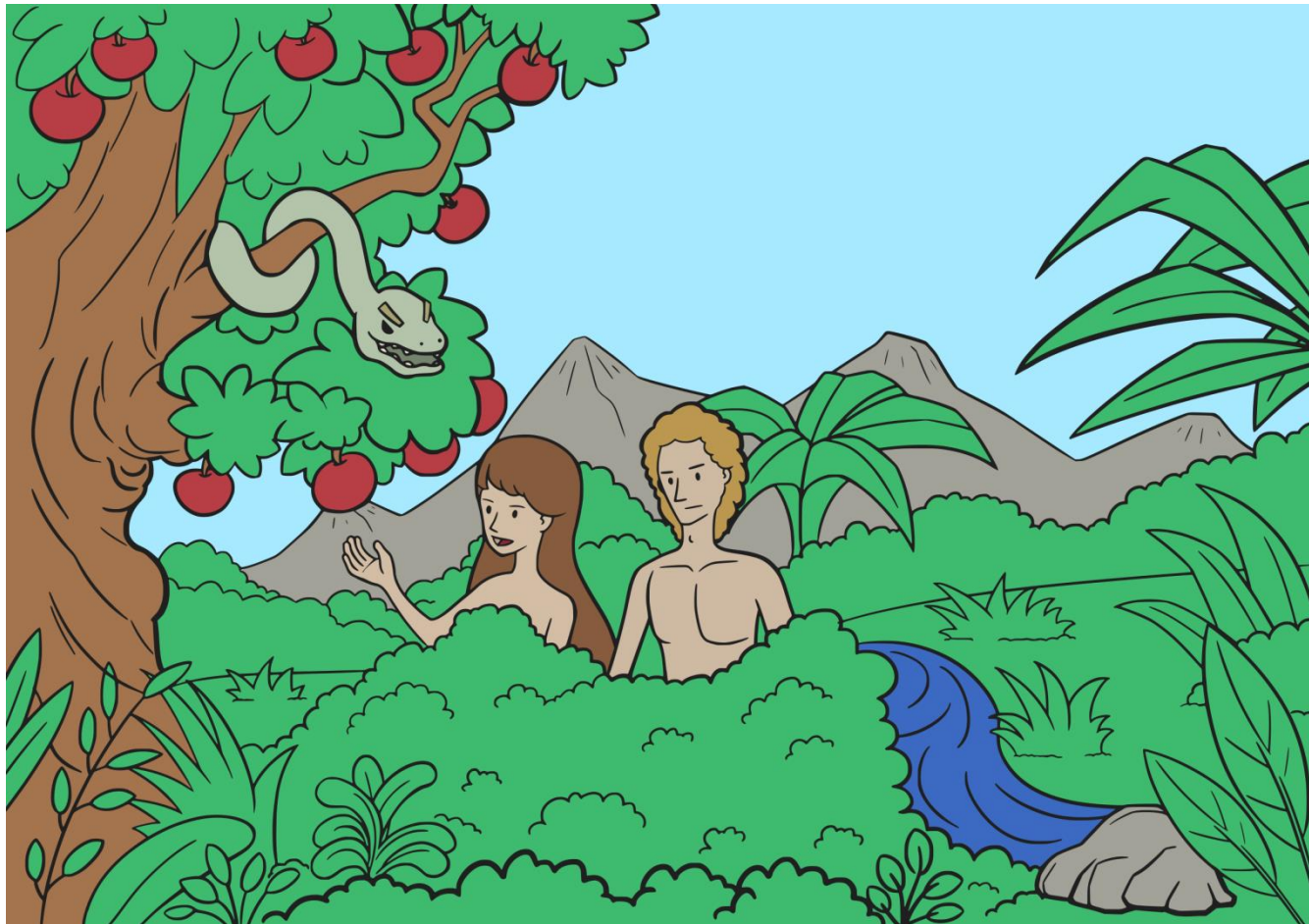
This isn't news to God

Big Lens – This isn't news to God

- Understanding the Big Lens

Big Lens – This isn't news to God

- Understanding the Big Lens
 - **God is in control (He is sovereign)**



Big Lens – This isn't news to God

- Understanding the Big Lens
 - God is in control (He is sovereign)
 - **He works for the good of those who love and trust him**

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but **God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.**



Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Big Lens – This isn't news to God

- Understanding the Big Lens
 - God is in control (He is sovereign)
 - He works for the good of those who love and trust him
 - **He promises a future beyond the challenges of this world**

This is faith.

Living with Big Lens confidence
in our Small Lens life

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Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
 - **Understand bias**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

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 - Understand bias
 - **Research/be thoughtful**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
 - Understand bias
 - Research/be thoughtful
 - **Understand levels of confidence**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. **Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
 - **We don't feel defeated by what we find**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
 - We don't feel defeated by what we find
 - **We have perspective on the news vs. God's kingdom**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
- 3. Live life like we trust in God's Big Lens**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
3. Live life like we trust in God's Big Lens
 - **Hold to biblical truth (be informed)**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
3. Live life like we trust in God's Big Lens
 - Hold to biblical truth (be informed)
 - **Care for the sick, hurt, lost (be involved)**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
3. Live life like we trust in God's Big Lens
 - Hold to biblical truth (be informed)
 - Care for the sick, hurt, lost (be involved)
 - **Have patience and genuinely listen (be kind)**

Living with Big Lens confidence in our Small Lens life.

1. Be objective with what we see
2. Assess ourselves in light of God's Big Lens
3. Live life like we trust in God's Big Lens
 - Hold to biblical truth (be informed)
 - Care for the sick, hurt, lost (be involved)
 - Have patience and genuinely listen
 - **Think before we post (be kind)**



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