**Harnessing Technology and Social Media for the Glory of God**

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**July 23, 2023**

**1 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 Cor. 10:31; John 15:5**

John Howe: “*You will be as the things you converse most with*; they will leave their stamp and impress on you; wandering after vanity, you will become vain; minding earthly things, you will become earthly; accordingly, being taken up with spiritual things, you will bear their image, and become spiritual” (*On Delighting in God*, 234).

**How Do we Harness Technology for God’s Glory?**

1. Understand the Tide of Technology
   1. Massive Liabilities with Technology
      1. The creative opportunities for sinfulness: online bullying, relationships, immorality, and etc.
      2. The effect on the Brain and Body in overuse and overstimulation
      3. The neglect of Personal and Relational Development – the tools/skills you bring to the future
      4. Finally, there is a neglect on spiritual development - your walk with God[[1]](#footnote-1)
2. How do we harness technology for God’s glory?
   1. We start by recognizing the potentiality (1 Tim. 4:1-4)
   2. It is a conduit of information to you and from you
      1. Your digital environment shapes you (1 Cor. 5:6, 15:33)
      2. Technology reveals who you are (Prov. 4:23)
   3. Technology *is* crowding out our spiritual appetite (Matt. 5:6)
      1. “A loaf of bread before Thanksgiving dinner”
      2. (Turn the Page)

**“Full of the World” Questionnaire**

1. \_\_\_How often do you prefer time with technology to time in the Word and intimacy with your God?
2. \_\_\_How often do you prefer time with technology to fulfilling the “one-another’s” of Scripture? (i.e., love one another, be kind, tenderhearted, forgive, etc.)
3. \_\_\_ How often is the most anticipated time of your day time with technology?
4. \_\_\_How often do you check your email, text, or social sites before something else that you need to do?
5. How often do you check your email, text, or social sites when sitting down with friends/family to eat or to be together, or in a meeting, or while driving a car?
6. Do you believe you spend an inordinate amount of time and attention on your digital help and happiness device(s)? Do others? How much time do you spend? What specifically do you do with your time on your device and when? How do others say your use of these devices needs to change?
7. Three Specific Areas to Collect Data
   1. WHAT are the things you doing on this device?
8. WHEN are you doing these things on this device?
   1. WHY are you doing these things?

**Practical Application:**

1. *Uses*: What are the commitments I need to make to glorify God with technology and social media?
2. *Barriers*: What barriers do I need to implement to glorify God with technology and social media?

1. Tim Bryant, Lowcountry Biblical Counseling Center. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)