

School of Theology



Technology



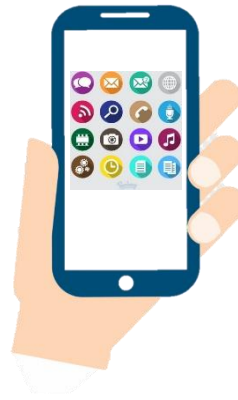
Part 3 - A Specific Story of Technology

Sunday 14 March 2025

Introduction

Questions

What can you do with a Smartphone/Tablet/Device of some kind? Write down as many things as possible....



What things have you done with your Smartphone/Tablet/Device this week?
What's your current average screen time this week?

If you were here last week, try to recap 'The Christian's story of technology'; or 'The Bible's story of Technology' (two weeks ago). If you weren't here, listen in to the recap!



Recap: Week 1 – The Bible’s Story of Technology (2 March)

(a) Creation (Lego)



(b) Rebellion (Apple)



(c) Salvation (Better Technology)



(d) Consumation (Babel and the Basket)



Tech-trends: towards becoming a ‘god’ and towards man-made greed

Tech-trends: towards being used by believers for God’s work

If God is the centre of our life, technology is a great gift. If technology is our saviour, we are lost¹

Week 2 – The Christian’s Story of Technology (9 March)

Searching for God-given wisdom to flourish with technology

1. Distinguish technology's value (even when it's shiny and new)



2. Commit to the physical, when much is virtual



3. Rejoice in being a mortal not a machine

4. Love people, not technology



¹ ‘God, Technology and the Christian Life’, *Tony Reinke*

The Power of the Smartphone

Single most influential gadget of all time –likely to have repercussions for decades to come. ²

We don't know what our smartphones are doing to us, but we are being changed that much is clear.

You WILL use this power in one of two ways



Return to question 1 on the front page. From all the things you can do with a smartphone, discuss which could be a danger and which an opportunity. How could a phone become a god or a gift?

How you use it WILL depend on two things

1. Your Operating (Control) System

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Rom. 12:2***

2. Your Power Source




For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,



Titus 2:11-12



² ‘12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You’, Tony Reinke

Engaging with the Smartphone

Smartphone Features	How can this be a danger? And why? How might this be an opportunity? And how?	What does the Word say?
<p>Huge choice of apps and functions <i>Example</i></p> 		<p><i>1 Corinthians 7:29-31</i></p> <p><i>Mark 6:31</i></p> <p><i>Hebrews 12:1</i></p>
<p>Connecting with friends from a distance</p> 		<p><i>2 John 12</i></p> <p><i>1 Thess. 2:8</i></p> <p><i>Romans 1:11</i></p>
<p>Sharing to a large audience easily</p> 		<p><i>Colossians 4:5</i></p> <p><i>Prov. 10:19</i></p> <p><i>Gal. 1:10</i></p> <p><i>John 7:3-4</i></p> <p><i>1 Corinthians 4:3-4, 2 Corinthians 10:17-18</i></p>

<p>Instant access to lots of content</p> 		<p><i>Philippians 4:8</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 1:8</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 7:6-9</i></p> <p><i>Mark 7:14-15</i></p> <p><i>Ecclesiastes 12:12</i></p>
<p>Portable and private</p> 		<p><i>Hebrews 4:13</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 15:3</i></p> <p><i>Psalms 139:1-2</i></p> <p><i>Luke 8:17</i></p>
<p>Your own:</p>		

Some Smartphone Guidelines

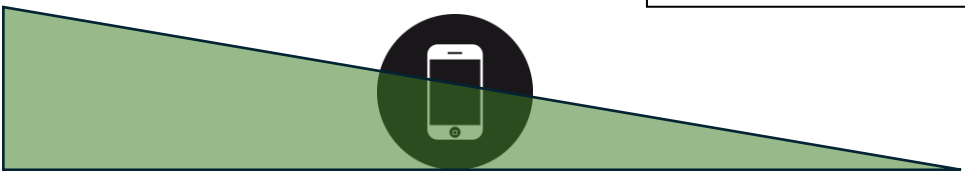
Parental pointers

*Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it. **Prov. 22:6***

- 1) Discipline
- 2) Discussion
- 3) Discernment

Church diversity and grace

You asked: What would you say to a Christian who hates technology? Would you agree or disagree?



Phone use

All phone functions

No Smartphone

Possible danger

Idolise

Gift not received

Possible prideful judgment

'I thank you God that I'm not like this tech despiser who is too undisciplined to manage the digital distractions of the real world.'

'I thank you God that I'm not like this gadget addict who is distracted by his devices and feeding on the banal trivialists of the fake world.'

Golden questions to ask yourself

Golden Rule: Is my phone use helping me love God and others?

12 Really helpful boundaries to consider (to be powered by the gospel)

1. Turn off all non-essential push notifications.
2. Delete expired, non-essential, and time-wasting apps.
3. At night, keep your phone out of the bedroom.
4. Use a real alarm clock, not your phone alarm, to keep the phone out of your hands in the morning.
5. Guard your morning disciplines and evening sleep patterns by using phone settings to mute notifications between one hour before bedtime to a time when you can reasonably expect to be finished with personal disciplines in the morning (9pm to 7am for me).
6. Use self-restricting apps to help limit your smartphone functions and the amount of time you invest in various platforms.
7. Recognize that much of what you respond to quickly can wait. Respond at a later, more convenient time.
8. Even if you need to read emails on your smartphone, use strategic points during the day to respond to emails at a computer (thirty minutes each at 9am and 4pm for me).
9. Invite your spouse, your friends, and your family members to offer feedback on your phone habits.
10. When eating with your family members or friends, leave your phone out of sight.
11. When spending time with family members or friends, or when you are at church, leave your phone in a drawer or in your car, or simply power it off.
12. At strategic moments in life, digitally detox your life and recalibrate your ultimate priorities. Step away from social media for frequent strategic stoppages (each morning), digital Sabbaths (one day offline each week), and digital sabbaticals (two stoppages for two weeks each year).³

³ '12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You', *Tony Reinke*, p 200

Look through the list on the previous page and circle 1 or 2 boundaries you think it might help you to put in.

Reflection Box:

1) Summary:

2) Commitment:

Hi-Tech Slido Question Box

We are aware how some modern technology is very good at holding our attention, at times to levels of distraction. So, to help in this series, we'd love you to write questions you have thought of during the talks in this box. Then add them to Slido in the break.

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our
God. (Ps. 20:7)*

