Loving God with All Your Smartphone
The Pitfalls and Possibilities of Technology

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Using Smartphones to Worship Jesus Better

Introduction

In our first session we said that technology is an extension of humanity. Technology simply makes us better able to do whatever it is we want to do. That can be a scary thought, because as fallen creatures we often want to do some bad things. But, as redeemed sinners, technology gives us the opportunity to love God better by doing the very things God has commanded we do even better. Technology has the potential to greatly aid us in our Christian life, if we will use it wisely and carefully. In this lesson, we will look at things God has already told us we must do, and see how technology can hep us do that better.

Connect

- God desires that Christians have a daily ministry exhorting one another about the dangers of sin and the need for grace (Hebrews 3:12-13).
- Technology has the ability to connect believers as never before, and that can be a very good thing!
- Obviously, phones give us the ability to be in constant communication. Do you reach out to others to encourage them,

let them know you are praying for them, or thank them for their ministry in your life?

- Social media, when used carefully, has the ability to connect people and allow them to share with each other what is going on in their lives.

Grow

- The resources available on the web would make most Christians throughout history incredibly jealous, and God warns that to whom much has been given, much more will be required (Luke 12:48).
- Potential avenues for growth
  - Audio Bibles
  - Bible Study Tools
    - Blueletterbible.org
    - Biblestudytools.org
    - Biblewebapp.com
  - Sermon Audio
  - Audible – listen to quality spiritual books by authors such as C.S. Lewis, Kevin DeYoung, A.W. Tozer, and others!
  - Blogs
    - Pursuingthepursuer.org
    - Rootedthinking.org
    - Theologyin3d.com
    - Challies.org
    - Desiringgod.org
  - Podcasts
    - The Briefing (Al Mohler)
    - Pastors' Talk (Mark Dever)
    - Let My People Think (Ravi Zacharias)

Spread[1]

- As Christians, we are called to spread the glory of God to all the nations (1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 28:18-20).
- Technology gives us the chance to do that on a dramatic level. Social media can be a great outlet for pointing people to Christ, or it can devolve into a selfish outlet to point people to me.
- In a world that views their profiles as a way to grow their own popularity Christians need to come to that world seeking, not the glory of man, but the glory of God.
- Ask God to check your heart when you post pictures or statuses. Surrender your accounts to him and don't post if you think that doing so would be out of proud, selfish motivations.

The key in all of this is to use technology ***intentionally*** instead of ***passively***. It is easy to use phones, tablets, and laptops thoughtlessly, and that is when technology is most dangerous. Plan out how much time you will use the internet, when you will turn your device off, and other such details. Have a plan, and if you don't have a plan, develop one. Seek to ***use*** technology, not just ***enjoy*** it. And pray that God would give you wisdom. Surrender your phone, tablet, or laptop to God out loud in prayer, telling him that they belong to him and asking them to guide your use of them as he sees fit.

Technology is good, but dangerous. It is an extension of humanity, so surrender it to God as you would your hands, feet, eyes, and ears (Romans 6:12-13). Determine that your technology will be a help in your walk with God, not a hindrance, and watch with excitement as your iPhone, Samsung, or Motorola actually brings you closer to God and others and equips you in your Christian walk.

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[1] This idea borrowed from Andy Naselli, *Why and How I Use Social Media: To Spread Strategically*.