

TECHNOLOGY

community reflection (5 minutes)

During the month of February (2021) our community has entered into a conversation about how Technology (esp. smartphones, social media, and computers) affect our daily lives. More than this, we have discussed the effects technology can, and does, have on our discipleship to Jesus.

Because technology is not just a passive tool, but an active presence in our lives it is competing for our time, attention, and affections. This puts it in a dangerous position of stealing away our life as it slowly conforms our interest to the interests of those “behind the screen.” We aren’t disparaging technology, however. Our critique is firstly trained at our own hearts and hands. How have we participated and been complacent to a malformation of our soul’s affections? How have we chosen to construct a virtual persona, finding value and truth in a digital world built on the proxy of a click?

Our community has used Zoom, YouTube, Instagram, podcast platforms, GroupMe, WhatsApp, texts, email, Google, etc. We are not innocent of participation! Our community desire, however, should not be to disengage and leave the world, but in love to offer a new and better Way to those who are struggling to carry the weighty labors of their life (Matthew 11:28-30).

A PRAYER

“Let us be content with nothing but thee.
O Christ who alone art sufficient to our longings,
 We would be your trusted servants,
 at liberty to employ and to enjoy all things at our disposal,
 without being owned by any of them-
 using technologies to further good ends,
 while never seeking them as ends in themselves.
For it is not the advance of digital platforms
that will usher in your kingdom,
but the work of your Spirit in the world,
and in the hearts and lives of your people.

Content our soul therefore in you, O Christ,
who alone are sufficient to our longings.

Amen.”¹

personal reflection (15 minutes)

Take time to review any notes (or mental notes) you have taken during the following content:

NavNight (February 4th, can be found on YouTube)

re:discipleship ep1, conversation

re:discipleship ep2, question&response

¹ Douglas McKelvey, *Every Moment Holy: Volume One* (Nashville, TN: Rabbit Room Press, 2019), 164.

personal reflection, cont.

After reviewing any notes you have collected, try to write out 1-3 statements to summarize your understanding. (*What has God taught you about technology and its impact on your discipleship to Jesus?*)

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Practically, what is ONE shift you could make in your relationship to technology that could realign your time and affections in your relationship with Jesus?

Spend time in prayer asking God to honor your desire to draw close to him. Ask for help and wisdom in this journey. Spend a few minutes in a quiet space (no phones or music!). Record any thoughts, affirmations, or scriptures that seem to come to your mind, but be content with the silence as a gift.

small group reflection (15-30 min depending on size)

Take a minute to check out your phone settings and look up your daily and weekly screen time averages. Who wins?

How did you define “winning” in the last question?!

Share any personal reflections that were meaningful to you. Choose to actively listen to others, affirming and asking questions after they share.

Talk together about how technology keeping your community from living out any values of Jesus’ kingdom. (humility, kindness, self-control, unity, meeting one another’s needs, love, joy, etc.) *If you’re stuck on this, do a quick search of “one another” in the New Testament and see what verses come up.*

Take time to pray together, asking for God’s help to be present with one another. Consider if there is a need to repent for not being fully present in the group because of technology.

Consider inviting group members to challenge one another in a specific application from this topic.