

I. Introduction

A. Elephant in the room

1. The reality of technology
2. Skynet was a computer system developed for the U.S. military by the defense company Cyberdyne Systems. It was activated by the military to control the national arsenal on August 4, 1997, and it began to learn at a geometric rate. At 2:14 am on August 29, it gained artificial consciousness, and the panicking operators, realizing the full extent of its capabilities, tried to deactivate it. Skynet perceived this as an attack and came to the logical consequence that all of humanity would attempt to destroy it. In order to carry out its programming mandates of "safeguarding the world" and to defend itself against humanity, Skynet launched nuclear missiles under its command at Russia, which responded in kind against the U.S. and its allies. Over three billion people were killed in an event that became known as Judgment Day.

B. Technology

1. Popular options: blindly accept or intentional avoidance

**Demonize it or idolize it

2. Reality: every single person uses and is affected by technology
3. Tech is neither good nor evil. It is how we use it that matters.
 - a. What we use it to do.
 - b. What we allow it to do to us.

Q: If Jesus is first in my life, how will I use and interact with technology?

II. A theology of technology

A. Genesis 1:27-31

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the Earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the Earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the Earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the Earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1. Bearing God's image gives us the ability to create.
 - a. God has given us the ability to think and be innovative.
 - b. Distinction: man and monkey (the rock and the nut)
 - c. The practical result of creative activity is technology.
2. Accepting God's command drives our desire to create.

- a. Tech is man's way of carrying out God's global mandate (tech to grow crops and reach new places)
- b. We are called to use tools to shape God's creation for practical purposes and His glory.
- c. Inherent within the command is a requirement for tech, therefore, there is at least some good in technology.

B. Genesis 3:17

- 1. Sin complicates our relationship with tech.
 - a. Sin didn't eliminate God's command to mankind.
 - b. Sin means that man will have a much more difficult time in carrying out God's calling.
 - a. Sinless world-no need for medicine. Fallen-developing medicine is critical for survival
 - b. Sinless world-no need for weapons. Fallen-development of weapons technologies for defense against animals and other people is necessary
 - c. The things we create to help overcome the consequences of the curse also seek to draw our hearts away from God rather than draw us toward Him in trust and surrender.

C. Theology Summary

- 1. Tech is a good, God-given gift.
- 2. Like everything else, tech is subject to the curse of sin.
- 3. Human application of tech determines whether it honors God or furthers human sin.

*What was true for ancient tech (spear, axe, plowshare) is also true of modern tech (computers, smartphones, cars). Every technology comes with opportunities and risks.

III. "Jesus First" view of tech

A. Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- 1. Applies to the tech we create and how we use it
- 2. If the tech we use doesn't result in focus toward God and peace in our hearts, then we should question our use.

B. "Jesus first" results in ...

- 1. Not avoiding tech but always evaluating, redeeming, and ensuring we use it with godly motives for God's glory.
- 2. Three "Jesus first" questions:
 - a. Am I giving up control of my life to tech?
 - b. Are these technologies transforming me?
 - c. Am I being used by the tools that are supposed to serve me?

IV. Contemporary Navigation

A. The Internet

1. Incredible opportunities for our benefit and God's Kingdom
2. You are never alone.
 - a. God is watching.
 - b. Every click is counted.
 - 1) Someone knows the page you viewed, how you got there, how long you stayed, where you went next, and even how long your cursor hovered over the page.
 - 2) Positive and negative
 - a) Every click is a vote of content.
 - b) Every click is a manifestation of the state of your heart.

*Make your clicks count.

B. Social media

1. Before I post ...
 - a. Am I walking by the Spirit? (Pointing people to Jesus with the light of my life and grace-filled interaction? Is it about me or my need to be right? Would Jesus say that?)
 - b. Am I bragging? (Matthew 6:1; Jesus humbled Himself) connection not attn
 - c. Am I battling envy and discontent? (Other people's joy deflates my heart; log-out and take a break.)
 - d. Is this the best use of my time?
2. Please stop right now ...
 - a. Calling people out on their failures
 - b. Flippantly posting about cultural issues
 - c. Stirring the pot with articles you share
 - d. Trying to change/correct/convince people
 - e. Posting what should be said face to face

*When people encounter you in social media, where does their mind and heart go? Use social media to be salt and light in an otherwise dark digital realm.

C. Smartphones

1. Texts, emails, podcasts, calls answered/ignored, apps, orders, tweets and pics liked, sports scores checked (Matthew 12:36-37)
2. Phones should be a means to a relationship, a means to work, and a means to ministry. They are not the end, the destination.
3. Ask "why?"
 - a. Is this an attempt to escape?
 - b. Is this an attempt to control?
4. Mission statement
 - a. Samples...
 - 1) Disney: be one of the world's leading producers and providers of entertainment and information.
 - 2) Apple: bringing the best personal computing experience to students, educators, creative professionals, and consumers around the world through its innovative hardware, software and internet offerings.

- 3) Instagram: to capture and share the world's moments
 - 4) Chick-fil-A: To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and have a positive influence on all who come in contact with us.
 - 5) AT&T: to connect people with their world, everywhere they live and work, and do it better than anyone else.
- b. Without a clear and intentional mission, you will be a slave to the notification treadmill of your phone
 - c. Sample: exists as a means to personal relationships, a means to accomplish ministry, and a means to glorify God.

There's been a lot of information this morning. My prayer is this ...

- You would gain understanding of God's design in technology.
- You would be intentional putting Jesus first in your technology.
- You would take responsibility for how you use tech and how it uses you.

And ...

- Do something, anything different right now
 - Screen lock graphic- text "CPUUpdates" to 24587
 - Mission statement
 - Ask questions before posting
 - Click with purpose

Pray