

## Technology: Direction or Destruction Colossians 3:12-17

We live in a culture where technology can bring people together and provide a positive direction for everyone. However, technology is also capable of creating incredible destruction when we use it selfishly to distract or defend ourselves from relationships or reality. How can Christians use technology to direct themselves and others towards God?

### Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Intro – Pronunciation and How-To** – Technology leads to incredible creation that brings people together creates a **positive Direction** (Facebook, Instagram, Skype)

- Ex: Legitimate pronunciation inspired fake pronunciation inspired How-To (videos)
- And just as quickly, it creates incredible Destruction
  - Ex: Louis CK clip #1
  - Tough Ex: suicide, identity theft, revenge porn, sex slaves w/webcams
- This semester is all about culture, how we react to it (Grace/Bible/Church) and how we create it (Material and Meaning) – we're looking at a lot of areas, but today we're looking at Technology, specifically our Online Culture
  - So, ask yourself: **Why are you using technology? Direction or Destruction?**

### The Truth is...

- We're in a world that is fueled by incredible technology that allows us to move at an incredible pace, so it's easy to...

### Act without Thinking

- Who's busy? We often find ourselves with so much to "do" that we all "do" without thinking about what we're doing! We all fall into "Muscle Memory"
  - Ex: Bob's Ranger Training – Bob is super intense
    - What's the Christian's Muscle Memory? Read Col 3.12-14
  - Tough Ex: Someone confronts me so I get defensive, Someone hurts me so I hurt them back, Someone asks of me so I try to avoid sacrifice
- In light of this reality, it's crucial that we slow down and ask ourselves "Why?" – "Why am I using this technology?"
  - Ex: Louis CK clip #2 – Selfishly filling a need
    - Why should Christians use it? Read Col 3.15-17
  - If we're honest, we realize that the majority of our use creates Destruction for others because we use technology for Defense and Distraction

## Defense – Protecting yourself at the expense of Others and Reality

- **Defend against Others**

- We often use technology with the sole purpose of defending against others – either hiding me or lifting me high
- **Hiding** – We embrace the anonymity found online by causing widespread destruction without consequence
  - Ex: Google’s new YouTube policy of displaying people’s names – overwhelming outrage
- **Lifting** – We embrace the identity found online by inflating our achievements for the audience around us
  - Ex: Social Media depression – 1/3 of people accessing Facebook left it feeling discouraged or sad – we’re creating false perceptions of our lives and it’s creating unrealistic expectations for everyone else (showing everyone your highlight reel/montage)
- **App** – Our calling as Christians is to LOVE one another (John 13.35) – don’t ask how to impress or hide from others, ask how to serve

- **Defend against Reality**

- We often use technology to defend against the reality of our personal circumstances
- **Pain** – We feel pain due to our failures or failures of others, so we try to dull the pain with technology
  - Ex: 2yr old falling down – little kids falling down are the BEST because they always fall and immediately look to mom/dad to fill the gap – this is why mom/dad always says “you’re okay!” because otherwise kid fills the gap with crying
  - Tough Ex: Dulling our pain with People and Porn
- **Loneliness** – We feel disconnected from people around us, so we try to fill the gap with technology
  - Ex: Elaborate false identities that result in fake suicide
- **App** – We need to see the brokenness of our world, but instead of running to fix it, we should run to God in prayer (Phil 4.6-7)

## Distraction – Stealing energy away from something more important

- **Distracting vs Relaxing**

- Rest and Relaxation are vital for our health – but we have to recognize the difference between rest and distraction
  - **Rest** results in feeling calm, energized, confident, etc. while a distraction simply delays feelings of stress, tiredness, worry, etc.
  - **Result:** We self-destruct and are ineffective for God
  - **App: Protect your Rest** – identify what brings rest and do it in moderation in your free time

- **Distractions steal Time**

- Distractions are most obvious when they steal our time
- Ex: Wikipedia black hole or Vine Compilations or Melodica Covers (video)
- **Result:** We waste precious time we’re given by God for His purposes
- **App: Protect your Time** – plan your schedule including breaks

- **Distractions steal Thoughts**

- Distractions are less obvious when they steal our thoughts
- Ex: Thinking about next post/pic; random info about people from past on Facebook; random info about pop culture
- **Result:** We find ourselves distracted and unprepared for the tasks and people at hand (avg person checks phone 65x/day)
- **App: Protect your Thoughts** – plan thoughts with journal

Not only do we use tech as a distraction, we use it as a...

**Direction – Pointing people to God**

- **Personal Growth**
  - Use Bible App with reading plan and reminders
  - Reminders for Prayer
- **Others' Growth**
  - Leader GroupMe for prayer requests
  - Use online creativity as a platform for the Gospel
- **Unplug**
  - Try this morning ritual: no tech before God