

Week 11: We believe culture and technology are what we make of them.

INTRODUCTION:

There's no question our culture is becoming more and more dependent upon technology. Everywhere you look there are "smart" devices, such as smart phones, watches, and beds. They even have smart soccer balls that will tell you all about your kick. And for many, the rapid advancement of technology is just another reason why our culture is seemingly going downhill. But as Christ-followers, what are we to do with our culture and technology? Can Christian precedents of the past help guide us into the future? Is culture and technology good, bad, or simply what we make of them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Prior to this sermon and study, what has been your view of our culture? Where did that view come from? How has that impacted your engagement in the culture?

- 2) On Sunday, Pastor Dave referred to two different approaches to technology. The "knockers" and the "boosters." Which side do you lean more towards? How has that impacted your engagement in the culture and the people around you?

- 3) What role (if any) do you think technology has inside the church? In your opinion, what has been the pros and cons to the church's adoption of technology?

- 4) Last week, we had you read Genesis 1 and 2. Re-read those chapters in light of our discussion on culture and technology. What insights do you see that can help us create a sound theology for culture-making and technology?

- 5) Read Genesis 11:1-9. What insights do you see that can help us further our understanding of culture-making and technology?

- 6) Culture-Making is taking raw materials of this world and rearranging them somehow to express meaning. In today's terms, it's basically anything we do. In what ways do you see yourself making culture?

- 7) From what you know about history, what impact has Christianity had in the areas of culture-making and technology (especially in the West)? How does knowing these things guide and inspire you to engage with culture and technology? (P.S. A great book is *What if Jesus had never been born* by D. James Kennedy.)

- 8) Read Colossians 3:17 & 1 Cor. 10:31. How do these passages help you bring a “sacredness” to your work?

- 9) What are some other passages of scripture that you can share with the group that help guide and direct your engagement with culture and technology?

- 10) Tim Keller says, “Our cultural products as Christians need to both defy and resonate with the culture. Not only resonate because then you are just giving in. And not only defy because nobody will listen to you.” When it comes to your work and world, what are some practical ways you can apply these two principles?

- 11) How does the gospel impact your view of culture-making and technology?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

We’re all culture-making every day, but I’m sure most of us struggle with always doing it for the glory of God. Choose an area of your life where you’ll spend extra effort making sure it’s done in the name of Jesus and for the glory of God.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Memorize Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.