



## WEEK 1: *Being Human*

### INTRODUCTION – Pursuing and Cherishing Wisdom

Proverbs 4:5-8; Galatians 5:22-23

What principles & practices have U adopted 2 help U (& ur family) use technology wisely: TV, iPods, texting, fb, twitter, etc? Got examples? Send ideas to ask@themeetinghouse.ca.

### DINE IN – Our Power, Our Problem and Our Privilege

Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 3; 4:7;  
Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11; James 1:14

#### *Problems Technology Brings...*

- 1) Increased use of technology can decrease our participation in the spiritual practices of prayer, study, meditation, solitude, and silence.
- 2) Technology can use up more of our time than it saves.
- 3) Technology costs money to purchase, enhance, upgrade, and repair.
- 4) Our most important in-the-flesh relationships can be weakened and even marginalized.
- 5) Our internal world is refashioned. We trade in depth to gain breadth.
- 6) Specific ethical issues (eg, porn, masked behaviour, immodest medium, etc.).

Romans 1:21-25

### TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

1. Does my current use of technology enhance or distract from my relationship with God?
2. Does my current use of technology enhance or distract from intimacy in my family relationships?
3. Does my current use of technology enhance meaningful relationships with friends, or is my social world becoming increasingly wide and shallow?
4. Do I sense my level of screen time is changing the way I think or relate in general for the better or worse?
5. Do I use technology to enhance other unhealthy addictions (ego, knowledge, porn, gambling, shopping, etc.)?
6. Do I have more time on my hands to serve others because of the technology I use, or less?
7. Are you living and loving more like Jesus because of your technology?

### CONCLUSION – Asking God for Wisdom

James 1:5

Dear God, I embrace my calling to reflect your image in this world, I reject anything and everything that pulls me away from Christ-likeness, and I commit to working *with* rather than *against* your Spirit's leading. Please give me your wisdom to discern your will, and the courage to choose it.

#### FOR FURTHER RESEARCH...

- Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith after the Digital Explosion*
- William Powers, *Hamlet's BlackBerry: A Practical Philosophy for Building a Good Life in the Digital Age*
- Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*
- Elias Aboujaoude, MD, *Virtually You: The Dangerous Powers of the E-Personality*
- Nicholas Carr, *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to our Brains*
- Kevin Kelly, *What Technology Wants*

NEXT WEEK... *Chris Heuertz*

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

#### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

##### Warming Up...

1. What technology has changed the habits of your life the most? In what ways?

##### Look to the Book...

2. Read **Romans 1:16-25**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) According to **verse 17**, why is the message of Jesus "Good News"? C) In **verse 18** Paul says the wrath of God *is being* (present tense) revealed to sinful people. According to this passage, God is already punishing wickedness, and he does this by giving people what they stubbornly persist on getting (see **verse 24**). What evidence of this process do you see in our world today? D) Reread **verse 25**. Do you see tendencies toward idolatry (giving ultimate status through our behaviours and attitudes to anything other than God) regarding any technology in your life?
3. Read **Proverbs 4:5-8** and **James 1:5**. If it's our responsibility to get wisdom and pray for wisdom, what are some ways God answers our prayers? What are some practical things we can do to partner with God in making us wise, especially when it comes to making decisions about technology. Be specific. Brainstorm ideas.

##### So What?...

4. Take time to talk about your answers to each of the questions in the "TAKE OUT". When finished, identify one clear, sustainable change you want to make this week to create healthier relationship with technology.

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Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)