

“How to Live Well with Technology”

Galatians 5:13-16

9/21/25

Do you ever wish you were Amish, instead of having to download another App? By the way, download the Realm App for Newlonsburg! I think the reason I get so frustrated with technology is because I ultimately think of it as a tool. When I pick up a hammer, it functions like a hammer. But the latest App, may not function the same way I used it yesterday.

I bring up the Amish because there is a great lesson to be learned from their Christian tradition. The Amish were at my bachelor party. The reason they were there is because they were logging Hope's family farm to pay for our wedding. They came highly recommended because they used mules to pull out the logs and didn't disrupt the landscape. They are conservative: they conserve the environment. They used mules but were liberal in their chainsaw and Blackberry use. Anyone here remember Blackberries? Not the fruit. The precursors to the smart phone. They were really into my bachelor party. I had a pig roast all day with a volleyball net set up. It seems the Amish like fresh roasted pork and volleyball. As we were around the fire, we asked some questions like, “Why not tractors or cars but chainsaws and Blackberries?” The elder spoke up that the Blackberries were still in the exploration phase. Not all were using them only a few trusted elders. They were to report back to the elders whether they believed they built up the community or would ultimately breakdown the community. This is how they understood their freedom in Christ.

This is ultimately how Presbyterians figure out what is sin and what is not. Does the action build the community, or does it tear it down? Ideally, this is how laws are written as well. You don't have to answer out loud, but I would appreciate for you to discuss these among yourselves and with your children. So here are some subjects: casinos, war, social media, romantic physical relationships before marriage, same-sex marriage, smart phones, raw milk, free speech.

Don't use your freedom for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another!

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

If you go to your local butcher, and the prime rib is offered as a sacrifice to Zues, do you eat the meat as a Christian? This was a serious concern for Christians in Corinth. They were confessing Jesus Christ as Lord, do they eat meat sacrificed to another god? That may seem silly to us, but the same sentiment happens in our current cancel culture. If you go to your neighbor's house and they set before you a T-bone dedicated to white supremacy, do you eat the T-bone? As Christians, do we shop at the local retailer because they are in support of Pride month or not? What if the retailer is simply a cold-hearted capitalist at the mercy of their shareholders only desiring the cheapest price for their goods with no concern for their employees or the environment, do Christians buy the cheapest good?



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The Lord Jesus is the Lord of your conscience! I have been attempting to buy only American made since about 2003 after studying economics at the University of Pittsburgh and concluding that I didn't want to support the Chinese communist economy. As a Christian, I had read enough about the lack of human rights in China. However, I have been paying three to four more times the amount of money for new stuff made in America, but it relieves my conscience, and it ushered me to discover secondhand clothing from auction websites.

This brings us to how to live well with technology. Set boundaries. Set boundaries for yourself and for your children. Those boundaries are between you and the Lord of your conscience. But as God's Word teaches its not simply about your conscience, it's about your neighbor's conscience.

The ultimate goal for the Christian is the salvation of souls. Jesus wants to save our souls and once we see the Truth, the Way, and the Life who is Jesus Christ, Jesus commands us to save other souls. When you are on social media and making a post/comment, are your words to build the community? Are you keeping the other person's conscience in mind?

When you are deciding to allow your children to have smart phones or not, what are the boundaries? Set the boundaries. As we are becoming more aware, smart phones and many social mediums are designed to be addictive, so are vapes and fast food. Have these conversations with each other and with your children as Paul is writing back and forth to this congregation in Corinth.

Keeping the conversations going and determining if the technology or action builds the community or tears it down, is how we will live well with technology.

Love,
Pastor Curtis