



## PRINCIPLES IN TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an integral and prevalent part of today's society. It takes multiple forms, from personal computers to mobile devices to various media players, and it changes rapidly. While it has brought great gains in communication and productivity, technology also contains numerous aspects which can cause concern. Proper understanding, self-examination, and safeguards are essential when evaluating its implications for ourselves and our families.

Technology can be an exhaustive topic of discussion, but this brief article will discuss four key principles and the associated warnings in the realm of technology. It is centered on four scriptures which provide guidance into these standards and boundaries. Self-examination questions are given in each category.

**Principle #1: We should seek to keep all of our activities consistent with the mind of Christ.** *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..." Ps. 101:3*

- **Our Standard:** Users of technology are encouraged to maintain the Scriptures as their standard for purity while reflecting the gospel of Christ in all we do (*Phil. 1:27*).
- **Our Society:** The opportunity for impurity in the area of technology is increasingly prevalent today. Ease of access to content through various devices, lack of all-encompassing filtering programs, and the saturation of technology in society create a situation where each believer should be alert.
- **Our Approach:** Active use of filters and monitors should be considered a necessity for individuals and families, but it should also be realized that no filter is foolproof. Continued instruction in the discipline of holiness in all areas of life and proactive accountability to this standard should be encouraged.

**Principle #2: All of our communication, whether in person, online, or using any type of technology, should be honoring to Christ and edifying to others.** *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying..." Eph. 4:29*

- **Our Standard:** Communication in all forms for a believer should be held to the high standards of the Word (*Rom. 12:18*).
- **Our Society:** The ease and immediacy of technology has given us the ability to quickly and rashly respond in a manner which is not Christ-like (*Phil. 4:8, Jas. 1:19-20*). In addition, lack of face-to-face contact has led to a decline in interpersonal skills which can lead to withdrawal and isolation. Constantly evolving social media venues (Facebook, blogging, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) can perpetuate these trends.
- **Our Approach:** It is important to purposefully use the light of the Scriptures to examine not only the type of communication we engage in, but also the quality and depth of relationships which we maintain.

**Principle #3: We should be able to be temperate (have good self-control) in all of our activities dealing with technology.** *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” 1 Cor. 6:12*

- **Our Standard:** Without proper awareness, even good things from technology can keep us from “redeeming the time” (Eph. 5:16) as we are called to do in Scripture.
- **Our Society:** One of the more subtle dangers of technology is its ability to be a significant source of time usage and/or wasting, especially in children. This overuse of technology can diminish time spent on other beneficial activities and can minimize a healthy, wide spectrum of learning opportunities.
- **Our Approach:** We should perform regular self-examination to ensure we are not being “brought under the power” (1 Cor. 6:12) of social media, gaming, internet surfing, or other more serious misuses of technology. Instead, we should seek to fill our time with the “Father’s business” (Luke 2:49).

**Principle #4: Prove all things. Determine if the values, beliefs, and purposes of the author(s) fit with biblical truth and the whole counsel of the Scriptures.** *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.” 1 Thes. 5:21-22*

- **Our Standard:** We are to be diligent in our determination of the validity of information found via technology and prove it with “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27) through the Scriptures and the counsel of experienced, proven believers (Proverbs 24:6).
- **Our Society:** The increase in technology has led to the increased availability of resources (good, neutral, and evil) in a variety of formats. Little thought is given by most consumers as to whether these resources provide a balanced view of a topic, based on the solid foundation of the truth of the Scriptures.
- **Our Approach:** When discerning the truth of a topic, it is essential to search the Scriptures and let God teach you through His Word and Spirit while also leaning on the wisdom of experienced believers. Mainstream internet resources will often reflect only a fraction of viewpoints. It is critical to not take everything read or viewed at face value.

## Questions for Self-Examination

**Principle #1: We should seek to keep all of our activities consistent with the mind of Christ.**

- Has technology led to an area(s) of impurity in your life?
- Would you be willing to have Jesus (or your Christian brother/sister) review your internet history?
- How have your internet activities helped you to better further Christ’s Kingdom?

**Principle #2: All of our communication, whether in person, online, or using any type of technology, should be honoring to Christ and edifying to others.**

- Are you free of any use of “*corrupt communication*” (*Eph. 4:29*) in your online posting or emailing? Are all of your communications free of gossip, bullying, and partiality?
- How has your communication fit the standard laid out in *Philippians 4:8*?
- How has your communication enhanced your relationships with others in a healthy, God-honoring manner? Do you still have healthy “face-to-face” relationships with others as well?

**Principle #3: We should be able to be temperate (have good self-control) in all of our activities dealing with technology.**

- Are there responsibilities in your life neglected due to how you are using technology?
- Do you have any addictive/uncontrolled behaviors related to your use of any technology (games, social networking, constantly checking your email, etc.)?
- In what ways are you utilizing technology to better “*redeem the time*” (*Eph. 5:16*)?

**Principle #4: Prove all things. Determine if the values, beliefs, and purposes of the author(s) fit with biblical truth and the whole counsel of the Scriptures.**

- Do the beliefs and standards of the material you are reading, viewing, and listening to fit with biblical principles?
- Have you searched the Bible for the subject in question? Are you willing to receive instruction or are you simply looking for support for your own preconceived thoughts?
- How have you sought out wisdom from experienced, proven believers on this topic (*Prov. 24:6*)?

For further discussion and study on the appropriate use of technology, readers are encouraged to review the *Guidance on Using Technology* paper available on the Apostolic Christian Church website ([www.apostolicchristian.org/resources](http://www.apostolicchristian.org/resources)).

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The appropriate use of technology is of increasing focus today. ACCFS has developed numerous resources to assist individuals, parents, and the church family in this area. An expanded version of this *Technology Principles* paper, a guide to a *Family Technology Plan*, *Technology Discussion Aids*, and other quick reference resources can be found on our website at [www.accounseling.org/technology](http://www.accounseling.org/technology). If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or [info@accounseling.org](mailto:info@accounseling.org).