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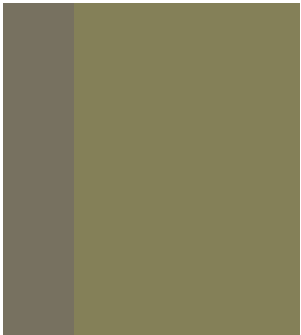


Discipleship in the Digital Age

Technology's effect on discipleship cannot be ignored. In this breakout, we will learn to navigate the unique opportunities as well as the challenges disciples of Jesus face in a complex digital age.

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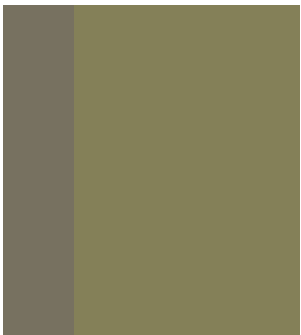
"We have always had tools as human beings, but now we have devices."
Andy Crouch

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Tools	Devices
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural universals, things that extend human capacities in some way• Require a certain amount of skill, effort, attention, or commitment to get their benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give us everything that tools give us but without requiring skill, effort, or risk.

VISION
FOR DISCIPLESHIP

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"From tools, to devices, to *easy everywhere*." Andy Crouch

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Technology wants to go somewhere.

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"Tools set the agenda. A tool of communication is a tool for communicating something. Media don't just lie around passively, waiting for us to come along and find them useful for some project we have in mind. They tell us what to do, and, more significantly, what to want to do. There is a current in the stream, and if we don't know how to swim, we shall be carried by it. I see someone doing something and I want to do it too and forget whatever it was that I thought I wanted to do."

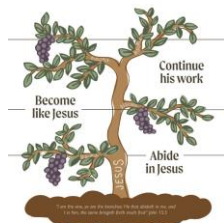
Oliver O'Donovan

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"We need to sort of give you a little dopamine hit every once in a while, because someone liked or commented on a photo or a post or whatever.... It's a social-validation feedback loop... exactly the kind of thing that a hacker like myself would come up with, because you're exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology.... The inventors, creators – it's me, it's Mark [Zuckerberg], it's Kevin Systrom on Instagram, it's all of these people – understood this consciously. And we did it anyway... it literally changes your relationship with society, with each other.... It probably interferes with productivity in weird ways. God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains."

Sean Parker

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DISCIPLESHIP
Abide. Become. Continue.

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Psalm 16

- ¹ Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.
- ² O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;
- ³ But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.
- ⁶ The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.
- ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- ¹¹ Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

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Attention is the pathway to adoration.

"Throughout his life, Jesus kept saying things like, 'Stay alert,' 'Keep watch' and 'Don't fall asleep.' As he approached his death, these reminders grew in frequency and intensity (see *Mark* 13:5, 34, 35, 37; 14:11, 34, 37, 38). At one point, Jesus compared the time of his coming to the days of Noah, when 'people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage' (*Matt* 24:38). Obviously, Jesus wasn't anti-eating or anti-marriage; the problem was much deeper. When the flood finally came, no one saw it coming because they forgot to focus. So, Jesus drove the point home by saying, 'Therefore keep watch' (*Matt* 24:42)."

Matt Woodley

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We become what we behold.

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"Tools set the agenda. A tool of communication is a tool for communicating something. Media don't just lie around passively, waiting for us to come along and find them useful for some project we have in mind. They tell us what to do, and, more significantly, what to want to do. There is a current in the stream, and if we don't know how to swim, we shall be carried by it. I see someone doing something and I want to do it too and forget whatever it was that I thought I wanted to do."

Oliver O'Donovan

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"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. So they do it to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way as not to run aimlessly; I box in such a way, as to avoid hitting air; but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified." 1 Cor 9:24-27, NASB

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Reflection Questions

1. Do you think the people who know you best would say you spend a lot of time on your phone, on social media, watching TV shows, in front of screens?
2. If you use an iPhone, go to Settings > Screen Time and note how much time you spend each day and week on your phone and doing what. How do you feel about what you find?
3. In what ways do you find technology/digital media potentially useful and good, and in what ways has it been personally detrimental?

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