

## {1} WONDERFUL/DANGEROUS

To say technology is advancing rapidly would be a huge understatement. I'm close to hitting my 30s (but I'm still far from an old dude), yet consider how much technology has changed in my lifetime...

I once changed TV channels by switching a dial.

My home phone was mounted to the wall, and I had to turn a crank to dial the numbers.

I remember yelling upstairs at my sister to get off her call, because I needed the phone line for the internet.

I remember getting my first cell phone. I was 22.

My high school experience was radically different from what you are going through today. You and your friends are interacting with new technology more than any generation in the history of time; and it's not slowing down.

We're going to open up a conversation about technology in your life as a high school student. I want to toss out relevant topics for students to wrestle with from a Christian perspective, but I thought it would be important to get something important sorted out first.

Romans 12:1-2 says,

*"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. God's mercy is so sweet. If we understand what Jesus has done for us, then we will be compelled to direct every area of our lives to Him as an act of worship."*

God wants our lives to be in tune with His ways, and we must recognize that the ways of this world are out of sync with who God is and what He's about.

### **Technology can be wonderful. Technology can also be dangerous.**

You have the difficult task of navigating this tech-saturated world in a way that honors God. The challenge is to allow God to shape the way you approach technology by developing an active mind that is constantly considering "Does this help or hinder my journey with Jesus? Is this working with or against the good stuff that God is doing in my life?"

When it comes to interacting with technology, how can we practically be transformed by the renewing of our minds?

**Take suggestions.** Allowing God to transform your mind first starts with admitting that maybe your thinking needs to change. Chat with other followers of Jesus about your current approach to technology, and honestly listen for ways that you can make adjustments to better align with the way of Jesus.

**Take a break.** Set aside a week or a day or a month to take a break from as much technology as possible. Give yourself some space from your routines and prayerfully consider if there are some permanent changes to be made.

**Listen to Jesus.** Develop a rhythm of consistently studying the life and teachings of Jesus from the Gospels. Soak in the person of Jesus and stay tuned for practical ways to live like Him.

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Be encouraged, because God intends to shape your heart and mind to be more like Jesus. As this transformation continues, you will truly find yourself understanding God's desires and making decisions to interact with technology that enhance your journey and allow you to fully worship God with all that you are.

This is going to be the lens we use in future blogs to navigate specific areas of technology that affect teenagers.

Do you have some ideas for tech topics? Drop an email with your suggestions to [info@truthmatters.ca](mailto:info@truthmatters.ca)