

## DIFFICULT QUESTIONS: REAL ANSWERS

### TOPIC 4

#### IS TECHNOLOGY GOOD?

##### *INTRODUCTION*

In the parable of the unfaithful servant (Luke 16:1-13), Jesus takes the time to congratulate worldly people for their wisdom. In other words, they know how to use what is available. Not everything they use is for good use, but Jesus is making the point that many times, *the people of the light* do not know what to do with those things that can advance their cause. In this case we call it technology.

**WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY?** The virtual dictionary of Information and Technology says: *Technology is a wide concept that embraces a group of ways, understanding and processes, that serve as a design and construction of objects to satisfy human needs. In other words, technology is simply: "objects". Objects do not think, plan, plot, or seek good or bad. Simply said, it is used to satisfy human needs.*

**THE BIBLE AND TECHNOLOGY:** There exists the use of technological advances in Bible stories. Two of them teach us that technology in whatever period and in whatever sophistication has its consequences.

In Genesis 11 we are told of a wonder of architecture known as the Tower of Babel. *Genesis 11:3-6* This story shows how human engineering can accomplish great things. However, they used their intelligence and technology not to bless but rather for egotistical motives. This indicates that technology can be perverted by human beings.

In Exodus 35:21-35 we find another example of how technology is important and of how God inspires and gives wisdom to those who should use it. The results of this Biblical passage was of great benefit for the people. Instead of perverting, it equipped and was of benefit to others.

**THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF TECHNOLOGY:** According to the teachings of Pastor Carlos Ferreyro, Jr.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| -Addiction to cyberspace               | -Easy prey to sin and false doctrines |
| -Decline of Vocabulary                 | - Social isolation                    |
| -Disintegration of the family          | - The loss of pleasure                |
| -Decline of memorization capabilities  | - The lack of social skills           |
| -Little interest in the spiritual life | - A "secret" life is created          |

To these examples can be added statistics that can affirm these effects:

1. **The United States Association of Lawyers sites that 20% of all divorces produced in the United States of North America were products of the use of Facebook.**
2. **Erectile Dysfunction in Adolescents:** The Kinsey Institute conducted a study in 2007 affirmed that sexual problems in young people are being attributed to the access and the excess of the use of pornography through internet and social networks use.
3. **Economic havoc:** The spirit of consumption demands that we replace, buy, and add more services to our already overburdened financial commitment.
4. The results are that our personal, family, and spiritual lives suffer because we have become slaves of a technology that continues to demand a greater investment.

**BIBLICAL REFERENCE GUIDE FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY:** There is no Biblical prohibition for the use of technology, especially for that which had not been invented in Biblical times. We will use three Biblical references to guide our use of technology as children of God.

**Apply the 10 Commandments in your use of technology:** (Exodus 20)

1. Applying the 10 Commandments will make you wise in using technology correctly and will honor God in the process.
2. **Test whether it suits me and edifies me:** Technology is not bad in itself, but in certain moments, technology is not convenient. Look at what 1 Corinthians 10:23 says, *“Everything is permissible” but not everything is beneficial.*
3. **Should I Think about These Things?** Our mind must be prepared to discern what is beneficial or not. That is why Paul recommends that we fill our minds with those things that will impede technology from taking from you what is most precious of your honor, integrity, and dignity. Look at what Phillipians 4:8

### **CONCLUSION**

We can debate whether or not we are “mature” or “prepared” to deal with the complexity of the use of technology as Christians, but the real challenge is that none of us is strong enough to say in all certainty that “it will not happen to us.”

### **-DISCUSSION QUESTIONS -**

Technology...

Does it empower me or does it control me?

Does it supply me needs or does it create desires?

What potential does it have to cause evil?