

Thinking Biblically in a Tech-Driven World Wrap-Up

Lesson for Sunday, July 26, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Today is our last lesson in our series. To kick it off, consider this relevant quote:
- *“It is difficult to imagine the world in the year 2000, by which time versatile microprocessors are likely to be as common as simple calculators are today. This will lead to the probable reduction of human contact, as the new electronic network renders personal relationships ever less necessary.”*
 - Take a minute and discuss that first part. This was said by John Stott in 1982 (he was quite prophetic).
- ⇒ Now read the remaining part of the quote:
- *“In such a dehumanized society, the fellowship of the local church will become increasingly important – whose members meet one another and talk and listen to one another in person rather than on a screen. In this human context of mutual love, the speaking and hearing of the Word of God is also likely to become more necessary for the preservation of our humanness, not less.”*
 - Ask: What do you think?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. What are we **seeking** from technology?
 - a. Ask & Discuss: When we mindlessly reach for our phone, what are we usually hoping to get in that moment? After some discussion, review the following possibilities of the deep desires under the surface of our tech habits:
 - i. Connection and belonging (social media, texts, group chats)
 - ii. Presence and attention (notifications, likes, views)
 - iii. Knowledge and guidance (search, AI, endless content)
 - iv. Impact and significance (platform, followers, “reach”)
 - v. Ease and control (automation, on-demand everything)
 - b. Point out that these longings are not wrong – they are God-given – but we are often looking for them in a medium that cannot satisfy. No technological advancement can bear the weight of our souls.
 - c. Scripture teaches us that these desires are only satisfied in a right relationship with Jesus Christ and in the community of his people found in the local church.
2. An “Alternative Network” – the **Local Church**
 - a. Consider these Bible texts. Read each text and ask class members to summarize what each is teaching us about the role of the local church.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (don’t read all these verses but choose a few that make the point) – We are a body of many members that need one another.
 - ii. Acts 2:42-47 – These verses outline the responsibilities of the local church. How are we to carry out these functions?
 - iii. Hebrews 10:24-25 – We are commanded in the Bible to be together faithfully.

- b. Discuss: How is being known in a church family different from being known online?
 - c. Now contrast the digital network with the local church.
 - i. Digital: fast, shallow, disembodied, algorithm-curated, self-focused. When it comes to digital technology such as your phone, you are the product that tech companies are trying to monetize.
 - ii. Church: slow, deep, embodied, Spirit-shaped, truth-focused. In the church, your life is blessed and you are encouraged as you are disciplined into Christ's likeness.
 - d. Summarize the point:
 - i. Technology gives us **contact**; the church gives us **communion**.
 - ii. Tech lets us present a **curated** self; church invites us to be a **connected** saint.
 - e. Emphasize that technology is ultimately a matter of stewardship. While it offers many valuable benefits, it must never be treated as a replacement for what God has designed to be fulfilled through other means.
3. Embodied presence vs. Digital presence
- a. Think how much God's Word emphasizes the physical over the abstract.
 - i. The **Incarnation**: The eternal Word became flesh & dwelt among us.
 - ii. The **Ordinances**: Baptism with water; the Lord's Supper with bread and juice – all physical signs that remind us of the difference God has made in our lives.
 - iii. The **Church**: The Greek word (*ekklesia*) means a called-out assembly. It means a group with shared values being together in one specific, physical location.
 - b. The point: God meets us not in abstractions but in physical presence. Screens can supplement that, but they cannot substitute for it.
 - c. Can you think of a moment when you experienced the church in a way technology simply could not replicate?
 - d. Consider these implications:
 - i. Online, we can **mute** people; in church, we must **bear** with people.
 - ii. Online, we can **log off** from hard relationships; in church, we **work through** conflict in love (Colossians 3:12-15).
 - iii. Online, we construct an **image**; in church, we share our weaknesses and **love** one another.
 - e. Technology makes a terrible savior but can be useful servant. The local church is where:
 - i. Our loves are re-ordered by **worship**.
 - ii. Our minds are renewed by the preaching and teaching of the **Word**.
 - iii. Our isolation is interrupted by **fellowship** with our church family.
 - iv. Our gifts redirect our attention away from self and toward others through **service**.

WRAP-UP:

- ⇒ What have you learned in this series that you don't want to forget?
- ⇒ What new habits have you tried to develop?
- ⇒ How can we maximize our time at church and minimize the digital distractions while we are in the Lord's House and with His people?