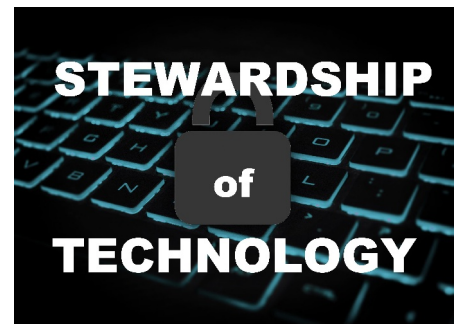# Church of God
Sunday School

WHOLE-LIFE STEWARDSHIP #9 – TECHNOLOGY

DAILY READINGS:

- ❏ **Monday:** Early Bible examples of technology (Genesis 4:17, 22; Genesis 11:1-9).
- ❏ **Tuesday:** All knowledge and ability to create comes from God (Exodus 35:31; Isaiah 45:12; John 1:3).
- ❏ **Wednesday:** Read of later Bible examples of technology (2 Chronicles 26:15; 1 Kings 6:1-3; Daniel 4:30).
- ❏ **Thursday:** God has a plan (order) for everything (Psalm 37:23; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 14:40).
- ❏ **Friday:** We need to beware of the dangers of technology (Genesis 11:6; Psalm 119:133; 1 Corinthians 6:12).
- ❏ **Saturday:** We need God's help to be faithful stewards (Matthew 7:7; Philippians 4:13; James 1:5).

MEMORY VERSE: *"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 Corinthians 6:12

What Is Technology?

There is something comforting about a nice fire in a fireplace on a cold night! That fire produces heat and light to those who are in the room. However, if you were to move that same fire to the middle of the room, outside of the confines of the fireplace, it could burn your house down. The power of fire (one of the earliest forms of technology) is a good example of how technology can be good or harmful.
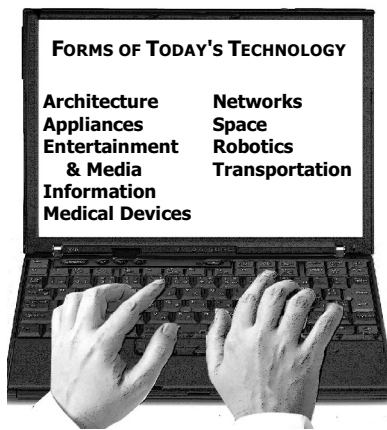
A basic definition of technology is "to invent useful things or to solve problems" (*Merriam Webster*). Forms of technology are tools and machines invented to create products, solve problems, or meet one's needs and desires. Some of the oldest examples are controlling fire, shaping metals, making clothing out of wool, and early forms of pictorial writing. Later, technology would include things like indoor plumbing, printing press, telegraph, radio, telephone, and cars. Today technology is even more advanced. We have cell phones, the Internet, airplanes, and space travel. When we look around us, technology is everywhere, but exactly what is it and how can we steward it for the glory of God?

Technology in Bible Times

Genesis 4:17 tells us that Cain "builded a city." Cities were often built with walls to protect the people from their enemies. Cain had killed his brother Abel. So, it is quite possible that he used technology to create a place of safety for him and his family. Genesis 4:22 tells about Tubalcain, who was believed to be the ancestor of blacksmiths. Consider the good these tools would have accomplished: plowing the ground for planting, cutting down trees for heat and cooking, and creating vessels for storing food and water. Genesis, Chapter 6, tells of the building of the Ark. What tools and methods might have been used in such a big undertaking?

The Tower of Babel is a good Bible example of using technology in the wrong way. After the Flood, God commanded the people to "fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1 AMP), but the people began building "a city and a tower . . . lest we be scattered" (Genesis 11:4). The people used technology to build this tower, but it was directly against God's command. Also, pride was behind this, for they said, "Let *us* make *us* a name." The technology that God had given them (knowledge and resources) to use for His glory and purpose were used to rebel against their Creator.

FORMS OF TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY

Architecture	Networks
Appliances	Space
Entertainment	Robotics
& Media	Transportation
Information	
Medical Devices	

Dangers of Technology

Thankfully, technology is helping many people to live longer, healthier, and more comfortable lives. Consider how long cooking dinner or washing clothes must have been one or two hundred years ago. Today, we can instantly hear from loved ones who live thousands of miles away, but our ancestors might have waited months or years to hear from their friends and families. With all the wonderful advances of technology, we must consider the same principles that have always been true, even with the simplest forms of technology: God is the owner; we are stewards. How does God want us to use these for His glory?

When considering all the good that technology can bring to our lives, it would be good to identify some of the dangers as well. How is it that we have so many time-saving appliances and devices, yet find ourselves struggling to find time to read our Bible and pray? These forms of technology must be taken care of and maintained. Newer versions come out that we feel we must purchase. Memorization is often no longer necessary as we can quickly search the Internet for answers. How does this affect our memorizing Bible verses? People often feel more comfortable interacting on social media than face-to-face interactions. How might this hinder reaching out to people who are not on social media? Misplaced priorities, laziness, trouble with concentration, and sinful addictions are some of the other dangers modern technology poses for many people. In too many cases, the entertainment and media technology are trying to change the morals and commandments of God's Word, telling us what we should believe, wear, and say. These standards are often in direct opposition to what God says. The danger is that we are often more affected by these than we realize.

How to Be a Faithful Steward

When you consider the serious dangers of technology, what should you do? It would be almost impossible to remove every form of technology from your life. All knowledge and ability to create and use technology comes from God (Exodus 35:31). Hebrews 13:21 AMP says that God will "equip you with every good thing to carry out His will." Consider how inventions like the printing press, the radio, and the Internet have greatly spread the Gospel! Each of these forms of technology has been used for great good or evil, which is determined by how they are stewarded (managed). When considering how to be a faithful steward, ask yourself, "How can I manage technology in a way that is pleasing to God?"

What do you own or have access to that is a form of technology? Consider a few: radio, cell phone, computer, the Internet, appliances, books/magazines, or music. Look at eac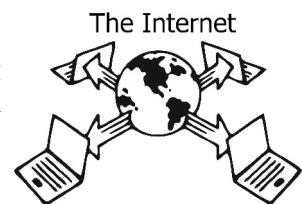h one as God's property. Since He owns it, He must have a plan for it. He gave it to you to manage. Are you thankful for it? Are you taking care of it? Are you listening to, watching, or texting something that the Owner would not be pleased with? Are any of these things hindering you from spending daily time with the Owner? What kind of values are being promoted? Are they affecting you? Are you using technology to witness for the Lord, encourage people, or reach out to others?

BOOKS

God requires accountability for everything He has given us. Your Internet browsing history lists every website you have been to. Is there anything there that shouldn't be? What about all your texts, instant messages, and social posts? Are there any the Owner would find concerning? The lukewarm Christian begins to lose sight of the importance of these things. Why? Because he or she is failing to regularly talk to the Owner about how these gifts from God should be managed.

The Internet

First Corinthians 6:12 tells us that not everything is good for us ("not expedient"). There are both blessings and dangers that come with technology. This verse warns about being brought "under the power of any." If any form of technology has "power" over you, you need to talk to God about it. Because technology surrounds you, it is important that you look at it through the eyes of the Owner. Is He pleased with your management? If you ask, He will give you the help needed to bring glory to Him through stewardship of technology.

Bible Quiz

1. **How can fire be both good and harmful?** _____

    _____

    _____

2. **What are some of the oldest examples of technology?**

    _____

    _____

3. **Tubalcain was considered the ancestor of** _____ .

4. **How is the Tower of Babel a good Bible example of using technology in the wrong way?** _____

    _____

    _____

5. **What are some of the wonderful advances in technology that we have today?** _____

    _____

6. **How does technology hinder memorization?** _____
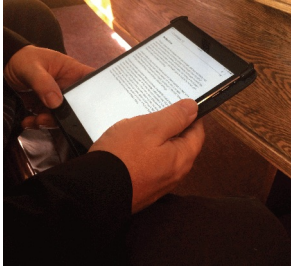
    _____

7. **In what ways are the entertainment and media technology a danger to the Christian?** _____

    _____

8. **What do you own or have access to that is a form of technology?** _____

    _____

9. **How could any of those in #8 hinder you spiritually?** _____

    _____

10. **What are some ways you could be held accountable for managing technology in a way that pleases God?**

    _____

    _____

Consider

**Are television, movies, music, and videos changing your moral belief system?
Do they desensitize you to violence and immorality?**

"Television is widely believed to have a greater influence on American culture than parents, schools, churches, and the government" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

Why do you think some people have called television the "idiot box"?

Consider the effectiveness of commercials. What else are these forms of technology trying to "sell" you?

Can you think of any social taboos that have seemed to become normal due to entertainment and media influences?

Social Media

How can you use these forms of technology to please God and to make you a better Christian?

How Is Your Entertainment and Media Technology Affecting You?

4 *Technology*