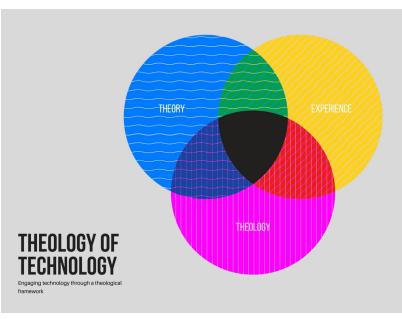## Session 1: How should Christians Engage with Technology

- When Christians engage with technology, especially new technology, two common responses are _____ or _____. Both of these responses are rooted in _____ and _____.

## Technology Defined

- Technology is a process by which matter, energy and _____ are transformed to realize certain _____ objectives.
- Technology is also the objects, devices, _____ and methods created by a technological process.
- All value derived from technology is not _____.
- *Summum bonum* is the _____ good. The highest good is the supreme good from which all others are derived. "God, and God alone, is man's highest good."[1]
- _____ tells us that only God is good.

THEOLOGY OF TECHNOLOGY

Engaging technology through a theological framework

THEORY    EXPERIENCE    THEOLOGY

Using technology for the highest good (in a glorifying manner) requires a biblical, the - ological _____.
[2]

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[1] Herman Bavinck, *Our Reasonable Faith* (Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1956).

[2] Tim Challies, *The Next Story : Life and Faith After the Digital Explosion* (Grand Rapids, Mich. : Zondervan, 2011).

# Theological Framework: The Biblical Meta (Master) Narrative

- Postmodernism denies the existence of _____, or over-arching narratives that give meaning and purpose to life. They especially deny the _____ metanarrative.

- **Creation**
  - _____ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
  - This is sometimes called the _____  _____.[3]
    › Technology _____ creation.
  - When we engage various forms of technology, we should consider how our use of said technology _____ _____ _____, supports the good _____ of creation and how it use can culminate in glorifying God.

- **Fall**
  - Technology can be used to help us survive in a fallen world. This is an example of _____ _____. (Ps. 145:9; Matt. 5:45; Luke 6:35; Acts 14:17)
  - Technology is still subject to the curse and the human tendency is _____ technology and use it to _____ against God.
    › Liturgies are practices or services that are used for _____ of the heart. Our engagement with technology can be liturgical.
      ~ The "American Dream" is a "vision of the good life that understands human flourishing primarily in terms of production and consumption."[4]  This ideal is taught, not just in schools and homes, but in the formative way in which we use technology.
      ~ _____ is a pervasive apprehension that others might be having rewarding experiences from which one is absent." And "is

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[3] Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth : Liberating Christianity From Its Cultural Captivity* (Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2004).

[4] James K A Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom : Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation* (Grand Rapids, Mich. : Baker Academic, 2009).

characterized by the desire to stay continually connected with what others are doing."[5]

– "Technology is the power with which the earth seizes hold of humankind and masters it." [6]

- **Redemption**
  - Christ _____ Christians to himself and therefore gave us the ministry of _____ (2 Cor. 5:18.) Christians are called to be imitators of Christ (Eph 5:1–2.)
  - Redemption is accomplished in the greatest technological _____ ever carried out. God created trees to serve man. Man used those trees to create a devastating instrument of torture and death. The cross was hacked. God _____ the function of the cross and used it to defeat evil. God's greatest good was derived from an evil use of technology.
  - Christians should be a redeeming force in the arena of technology, making every effort to _____ it for God glorifying use.

- **Restoration/Consumation**
  - Romans 8:19–22 tells us that all of creation was _____ by the entrance of sin. Calvin, in his commentary on Romans says this:

    *that there is no element and no part of the world which, being touched, as it were, with a sense of its present misery, does not intensely hope for a resurrection. He indeed lays down two things,—that all are creatures in distress,—and yet that they are sustained by hope. And it hence also appears how immense is the value of eternal glory, that it can excite and draw all things to desire it. [7]*

  - As we think about, use and create technology, we should be consciously aware that while it may be used to comfort, ease and offer _____, ultimately the supreme good,

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[5] Andrew K Przybylski et al., "Motivational, Emotional, and Behavioral Correlates of Fear of Missing Out," *Computers in Human Behavior* 29, no. 4 (July 2013): 1841–1848.

[6] Dietrich Bonhoeffer, John W De Gruchy, and Douglas S Bax, *Creation and Fall : a Theological Exposition of Genesis 1-3* (Minneapolis : Fortress Press, 1997).

[7] Jean Calvin and John 1867 ed and tr Owen, "Commentaries on the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans." (1849).

the *summum bonum,* is in the hope offered by the return of Christ—and not just hope for mankind, hope for all of creation.

- Conclusion
  - Scripture should _____ our ideas about technology, not the other way around. Therefore, it is imperative that Christians think about technology though a worldview shaped by scripture. Equally important, we should model this approach to our children. If they are unable to operate within a Christian worldview and biblical ethic and are unable to discern a proper use of technology, they will perpetuate failure for generations to come.

  - This week, as you consume and create technology ask yourselves these questions.
    › How does this technology contribute to the creation/cultural mandate?
    › How does this technology help man like in a post fall world?
    › What are some ways that this technology can be abused or idolized?
    › Is this technology forming my attitudes and thereby my response or are my attitudes and beliefs forming my response to technology?
    › How can this technology be used to promote reconciliation and communicate the redemptive power of Christ?
    › How does the use of this technology offer a glimmer or shadow of the hope that is yet to come?
    › How can I use this technology to bring glory to God?
- Questions
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