Faith and Technology

Introduction

Technology has great power to transform our lives. One hundred years ago, most North Dakotans braved the winters without electricity or indoor plumbing. They burned oil lamps and bundled up for trips to the outhouse. Between then and now, our ancestors crank-started their first cars, dialed their first rotary phones, and spun their first vinyl records. Today, over seven billion people own a smartphone, averaging four hours per day on their personal screens. In the words of Spiderman's uncle, "With great power comes great responsibility."

The story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) showcases the dangers of technology without boundaries. Equipped with new building technologies, the people try to construct a tower "that reaches to the heavens" and "make a name" for themselves. God scattered the people and scrambled their languages. Technology should never replace our reliance on God.

John 1:1-5 provides a counterpoint, emphasizing the role of the Word—Jesus Christ—bringing light and life into the world. It reminds believers that all good things are made through Him, and all good things can be used for Him. Technology can and should be leveraged to make our world a better, brighter place and to encourage all people to know the love of Christ.

Read Your Bible
- **Genesis 11:1-9**
- **John 1:1-5**

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. In Genesis 11:1-9, what was the motivation behind building the Tower of Babel, and how does this story highlight the potential dangers of unified human effort without boundaries?
2. In Genesis 11:4, the builders sought to "make a name" for themselves. How can this desire for recognition and self-glory manifest in our use of technology today?
3. How does God's intervention at Babel, as described in Genesis 11:7-9, set boundaries for human collaboration and technological advancement?
4. What role does humility play in our approach to technology, and how does this contrast with the attitude of the builders in Genesis 11?
5. Considering Genesis 11, how can we ensure that our technological pursuits align with God's purposes and do not lead to overstepping healthy boundaries?
6. In John 1:1-5, Jesus is described as the Word and the Light. How can these descriptions guide our understanding and use of technology in a way that honors God?
7. How can Christians use technology responsibly to reflect the light of Christ described in John 1:5, ensuring that it enhances rather than detracts from our witness and mission?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Gracious God, guide us as we navigate the intersection of faith and technology in our lives. Teach us to use technology wisely, reflecting Your light and love in our interactions. Remind us to set boundaries

that honor You and build meaningful connections. May our use of technology encourage all people to know the love of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.