Derek Introduction & Background

Give background and how technology impacts your work.

How have we become addicted to our screens?

Psychotherapist Sherry Turkle argues, “To combat addiction, you have to discard the addicting substance. But we are not going to ‘get rid’ of the Internet.” Nor are we unplugging completely. We are too far in, and the knowledge revolution is too good. But this overwhelming pace, with its consequences for our lives, is unacceptable. How, then, shall we live?

• How much time do you think you spend looking at a screen?

• How many times, on average, would you say you check your phone in a given day?

• Do you ever feel overwhelmed with how much information comes at you? Do you ever find all that information actually gets in the way of making a decision?

• What is the first word that comes to your mind to describe how you feel when you leave your phone behind for any length of time?

• Where do you get most of your news and information?

• How often (if ever) do you intentionally take a break from your digital devices?

• What three words would you use to describe “life today”?

Digital Statistics

THE RECTANGLES WE POSSESS

• Humans will text 188 billion times

• Send 144 billion emails

• Google 4.7 billion times

• Download 30 million apps

• Skype for 2 billion minutes

• Write 2.1 million blog posts

• Tweet 400 million times

• We spend more than 8 hours a day plugged into the digital world.

• We use our devices more than 150 times a day.

• 7 out of 10 people are overwhelmed by the amount of information they need to digest to stay up to date.

Digital Babel

*4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and* ***let us make a name for ourselves****, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And* ***nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them****. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth (Genesis 11:4–9).*

In a sense, this digital world is the art of making a name for ourselves – we are building a digital tower to become little god’s. Think about it We have found a way to be Omnipresent – always present and Omniscient – always knowing. These two attributes almost make us feel Omnipotent – all powerful in our own little digital world.

Questions

• As a hyperlinked people, what kinds of relationships with technology and information are beneficial, ethical, godly?

• How does being hyperlinked affect our relationships, our minds, our souls – our relationship with God?

• How can we avoid the cynicism of the transparent digital world in a way that enhances rather than tears down organizations and institutions (churches, colleges, governments, and businesses)?

• What will define wisdom in a digital world where an immense amount of knowledge can be accessed so quickly?