

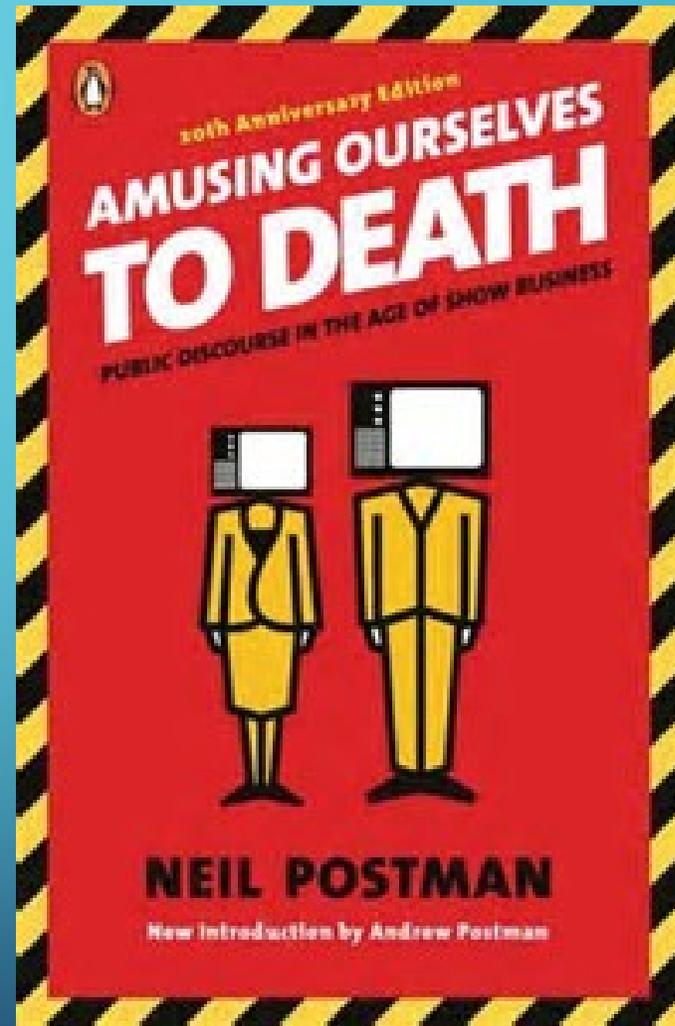


THE CHRISTIAN AND MODERN CULTURE: THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

AUGUST 6, 2017

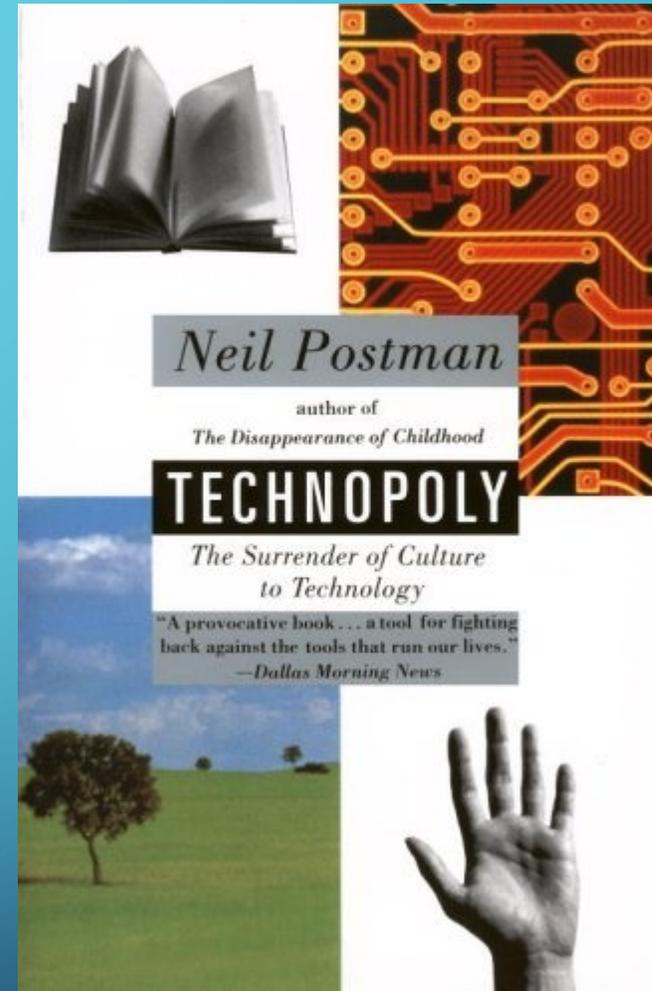
NEIL POSTMAN— *AMUSING
OURSELVES TO DEATH*

“THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE”



NEIL POSTMAN— *TECHNOPOLY*

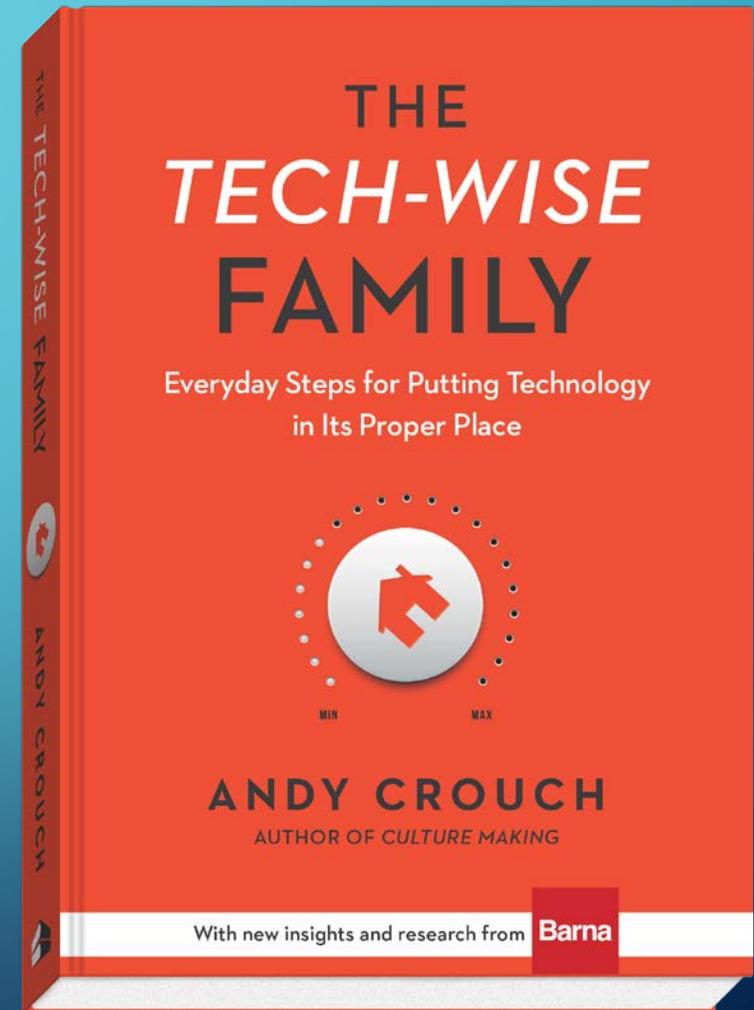
“YOU CAN’T UNDISCOVER
TECHNOLOGY”



ANDY CROUCH— *THE TECH-WISE FAMILY*

“PUTTING TECHNOLOGY IN ITS PROPER PLACE IN THE HOME”

“RECLAIMING REAL LIFE IN A WORLD OF DEVICES”



WHAT IS TECHNOLOGY?

1. The branch of knowledge that deals with the creation and use of technical means and their interrelation with life, society, and the environment, drawing upon such subjects as industrial arts, engineering, applied science, and pure science.
2. The application of this knowledge for practical ends.
3. The terminology of an art, science, etc.; technical nomenclature.
4. A scientific or industrial process, invention, method, or the like.
5. The sum of the ways in which social groups provide themselves with the material objects of their civilization.

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Neil Postman defines a *technopoly* as a society in which technology is deified, meaning “the culture seeks its authorization in technology, finds its satisfactions in technology, and takes its orders from technology” (pp. 71-72). It is characterized by a surplus of information generated by technology, in order to provide direction and purpose for society and individuals.



WHAT PITFALLS AWAIT THE
CHRISTIAN IN OUR MODERN
TECHNOLOGICAL CULTURE?

PITFALL #1: FAILING TO BE CONTENT (PHIL 4:10-20)

- Technology does not create the problem – it reveals it!
- Materialism: Wanting what you don't have and being unable to imagine life without what you do have.
- The (predictable) rise of depression rates with the rise of social media.

PITFALL #2: A LIFESTYLE OF INTERRUPTION (PROVERBS 18:13; JOSHUA 1:8; PSALM 1:2)

- While technology can broaden our opportunities for human relationships, it can also allow us to minimize the depth of those relationships.
- The impact of interruption on our communication – shortened attention spans and incomplete, shallow thinking.
- The impact of technology on our ability to focus on God's Word and pray is significant

PITFALL #3: AVOIDING BOREDOM AT ALL COSTS (PROVERBS 27:12; PSALM 8:1-9)

- “The more we are entertained, the more we become bored; it is the product of overconsuming distraction.”
- Not everyone has the same level of creativity. Technology should encourage creative *activity* (instead of constant *passivity*).
- God has surrounded us with eternal things – people.

PITFALL #4: THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF ADDICTION (GALATIANS 5:16; 2 PETER 1:1-11)

- The science and behavior surrounding chemical addiction is similar to the pleasure or reward centers that are activated when using technology, especially the Internet and social media.
- James 1:13-15 and the “tailor-made” sins that men and women face.

2 PETER 1:1-11

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2 PETER 1:1-11

⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,

⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,⁷ and in *your*

godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

⁸ For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus

Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

2 PETER 1:1-11

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- In the last ten years, the pace of technological change in our society was arguably greater than any previous decade in our world's history. Thus, we Christians should exercise patience with others, and we should personally prioritize the learning (and doing) of God's Word and being with God's people.
- We must constantly recalibrate our standard of holiness and sanctification to the biblical pattern of growing in Christlikeness and delighting in the growth of others. On the other hand, we must not assign Christlikeness to matters of preference that are not clearly defined by Scripture.