

Being Human in a Digital World

Understanding the Digital Age

Nathan Weston: Seminar 1

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This seminar is the first in a series of two. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, or friends. A handout is available to accompany the talks (<https://tinyurl.com/yc7dmn2r>). The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

WATCH THE VIDEO:

Seminar 1:
<https://tinyurl.com/5cb36uen>



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for Nathan Weston

SEMINAR OUTLINE

The Fall affected our use of technology as well as our view of ourselves, the world, and God. But salvation and our hope of the new creation reorients our perspective so that we use technology counter-culturally, to serve God and to advance his purposes.

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 21:43 minutes.

1. In what ways is God a technologist? What does his example teach us about how to use technology?

Restart video at 21:43 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/2s3v8yju>) and watch until 34:51 minutes.

2. How would you reply to the comment, 'Technology is neutral, it is the way we use it that causes problems'?
3. Where in our world do we see examples of technology encouraging us to:
 - remove limits from ourselves?
 - remake the world differently to God's design?
 - pursue purposes other than God's purpose?

Restart video at 34:51 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/2jx3ddv5>) and watch until the end.

4. Share examples of how the early church put technology to good use for God's glory.
5. How is your church using technology counter-culturally? In what ways could it improve?
6. What has challenged or encouraged you in this seminar?

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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- 'The smartphone is like a god in our hands' (Nathan Weston). To what extent is your mobile phone like an idol, determining your purpose, direction and meaning? What changes do you need to make?
- We will think more about this in seminar 2 but start to consider your own attitude to technology. Are you trusting it too much to remake our broken world? Are you believing its promise to make you happy? Are you giving it the place only Jesus should occupy in your life? Or are you using it counter-culturally?
- Praise God for who Jesus is and for all that he has done: 'What technologist would not wish to exercise perfect control over the weather, rule the sea, heal the sick, and raise the dead? That which sinful humanity strains to do and be, Jesus effortlessly does and is' (Owen Strachan, 'Reenchanting Humanity').
- If you would like to explore this topic further you could read, 'Terms of Service' by Chris Martin.