

Flint Hills Bible Church
Biblical Soul Care Sunday School
Using Technology for the Glory of God

I. Introduction

Technology is everywhere! One dictionary defines technology as “the application of scientific knowledge to solve practical problems.”

1. How many different technologies did you use this morning alone to solve “practical problems?”

2. Is all technology good? Why or why not? Give examples.

Objectives:

We will observe biblical principles concerning human technology, discovery, and innovation.

We will consider the wisdom and goodness of God as he guides and directs the innovation of man for His good purposes.

Part 1: The Foundation of Technology

If our goal is to think rightly about creation and technology, we have to start with a firm foundation of God’s creation and biblical implications of God as the wise and first creator and innovator. We will then see how God has designed us as human beings to develop, discover, and create new technologies as an act of obedience to His will for us.

II. God the Creator

3. If you were able to talk to someone from 100 years ago, what would amaze them and what would scare them about the technological advancement of today?

4. How do you imagine God feels about the advancements in technology over the course of history?

If we aren’t careful we can begin to think of God as being an observer who is excited to see what we will create next. Or maybe He is angry or nervous about what we might create with his stuff. He doesn’t really like technology because He doesn’t really understand what it is.

God is the creator of all things:

Genesis 1:1-26

Psalm 104:5-30

Job 38-41

5. What are the implications for human discovery and technological advancements?
6. Can man ever design or create something that God would be surprised by?

Example: Will doctors ever find a way to “transition” a person who believes their gender is different from their biological sex?

God the innovator of all good

Describe what God is doing in the following verses.

Genesis 2:18–21 (ESV)

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

7. What is the problem that God sees in verse 18?
8. How does God go about solving the problem?

Genesis 3:20–21 (ESV)

20 The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

9. What is the problem in this context?

10. What does God do to solve the problem?

Summary: We see both before and after the fall, God demonstrates His wisdom in the way he designs creation. We see that he solves problems in creation by giving Adam a helper suitable for him, and that after the fall God provides skins to cover their shame. He extends mercy to them.

III. Man in the Image of God

Genesis 1:26–28 (ESV)

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 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.”

11. As we consider man in the image of God, what implications does this have for creation, advancement and innovation?

God made us in His image, and as His image bearers he calls us to reflect his goodness, wisdom, and authority on the earth. As we read the following texts, describe how we obey this mandate.

A. Technology and Innovation in the Garden

Genesis 2:8–9 (ESV)

8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15–18 (ESV)

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

12. What does God expect Adam to do in Genesis 2?

13. What are some practical ways Adam and Eve would have in obeying this command?

B. God reveals knowledge to man

14. Does God leave it up to man to figure out how to work and keep the garden?

Isaiah 28:23–29 (ESV)

23 Give ear, and hear my voice;
give attention, and hear my speech.

24 Does he who plows for sowing plow continually?
Does he continually open and harrow his ground?

25 When he has leveled its surface,
does he not scatter dill, sow cumin,
and put in wheat in rows
and barley in its proper place,
and emmer as the border?

26 For he is rightly instructed;
his God teaches him.

27 Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin,
but dill is beaten out with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.

28 Does one crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it forever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.

29 This also comes from the Lord of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom.

15. What is God doing throughout this passage?

16. What does it look like for God to teach man how to farm?

God's Sovereignty of man's innovation

17. What are some instances in Scripture where God exercises sovereign control over man's innovation?

Example: The Ark in Genesis 6, Tower of Babel: Genesis 11:1-9

18. How does God influence and direct the technology at the Ark and at the Tower of Babel?

19. What do we learn about God from these accounts? What would be the wrong lesson to take away?

Isaiah 54:16–17 (ESV)

**16 Behold, I have created the smith
who blows the fire of coals**

and produces a weapon for its purpose.

I have also created the ravager to destroy;

**17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed,
and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.**

**This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord
and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”**

20. Are the possibilities endless for our problem solving and creation as we seek to solve problems today?

Summary: God is infinite in wisdom and knowledge. He is good and faithful. There is nothing in all of the technological advancement that can catch Him off guard. He sovereignly guides the course of history, including new inventions and technologies to accomplish His purposes. separate us from the Love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.