

Series: Swimming in the Cultural Sea
Message: Technology/Entertainment – March 21, 2021

Lies the culture tells us about technology and entertainment

1. I should be happy all the time
I can do anything I want on my own terms. I should always have what I want right now.
2. I must have choices - We have lost the ability to be content with quiet
3. What I look at doesn't matter (as long as I don't act on it)
But... it does influence me and changes my heart. Eventually one of two things happen:
 - a. I will begin to live only virtually
 - b. My virtual world will seep into the real world (I act on my thoughts)
4. I am the ultimate judge – I want information, not teachers

Discussion:

How can these lies creep into our relationship with God and other Christians?

Protection - truths from God

1. I am here to serve, not to be happy
"[Jesus] came not to be served, but to serve" – Matthew 28:20
"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" – John 20:21
But... God does not intend for my life to be a constant struggle.
"So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad." Ecclesiastes 8:15
2. I need counsel, not autonomy
I have to let others speak into my life – God chose to limit us so that we will listen to Him and others
Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge. – Prov. 19:27
3. What I look at matters
 - a. What I see and hear impacts me
"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" – Matthew 6:22-23a
 - b. What gets my attention shows the priority of my heart; what is important to me
"No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light." – Luke 11:33
What I look at is a reflection of me; it shapes my heart and is evident to others

Discussion:

How can we balance serving and enjoying life?

What happens if these are not in balance one way or the other?

How can understanding the difference between happiness and joy help us?

How can a secret sin impact our Christian witness?

Action Steps

1. Put technology aside regularly
"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. – 1 Corinthians 6:12a

2. Limit what comes in

"Consider carefully what you hear" – Mark 4:24a

3. Prioritize God's Word and service

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. – Colossians 3:2

God's voice (the Bible and the Holy Spirit) should speak more loudly in my life than the world's

4. Don't fear drastic measures

And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. – Mark 9:43

This is a hyperbolic statement – Jesus is not saying I should cut off my hand; He is giving an analogy that I should be willing to take drastic measures to avoid sin in my life (for example giving my spouse free access to view all my email, texts and web history).

Discussion:

Share ideas on ways to limit the impact of technology/entertainment in our lives and ways to let God's voice speak more loudly than the world's.