

## **Trust and Love in a Digital World – Part 2**

### *Technology and the Christian Life*

Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; June 18, 2017

#### **Distractions**

1. **Distractions are a fact of life.** (Psalm 55:1-3)

‘We must die to the idea that a distraction free life is possible – it is not and it never has been. The holy life is piously complex, meaning we must learn how to apply distraction management in every situation. – Tony Reinke

2. **Distractions are those things that take our minds off God and eternity and spiritual realities.** (Colossians 3:1-2)
3. **There are necessary and good distractions and unnecessary and bad distractions.** (1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Luke 21:34-36)

‘There has never existed a life without distractions. You cannot escape a life that divides your attention. These distractions fall on a spectrum: sanctified distractions and unsanctified distractions, soul-filling distractions and soul-deadening distractions, necessary interruptions and worldly interruptions, unavoidable distractions of godly marriage and avoidable distractions of consumer culture. – Tony Reinke

4. **All distractions need to be evaluated and possibly eliminated.** (Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14)

‘[If you] take away their diversion, you will see them dried up with weariness [for we are ushered into unhappiness] as soon as we are reduced to thinking of self and have no diversion. – Blaise Pascal

‘I have discovered that all the unhappiness of men arises from one single fact, that they cannot stay quietly in their own chamber. – Blaise Pascal

5. **Even good distractions need to be managed well for the sake of our souls.** (Luke 10:38-42; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5)

#### **Neglect of People**

1. **We can ‘neglect’ people online by treating them worse than we would if they were around us.** (James 1:19-20)

‘We are more likely to bubble with rage toward others screen to screen instead of face to face and researchers call this phenomenon ‘anonymous anger.’ – Tony Reinke

- 2. We can neglect the people around us by undervaluing face-to-face interaction. (2 John 1:12; 3 John 1:13-14)**

‘The Christian’s challenge is to love not in tweets and texts only, but even more in deeds and physical presence. - Reinke

- 3. We can neglect the people around us by ignoring them and, possibly, endangering them or harming them. (1 John 3:16-18)**

Do my smartphone habits expose an underlying addiction to untimely amusements? Reveal a compulsive desire to be seen and affirmed? Distract me from genuine communion with God? Provide an easy escape from sobered thinking about my death, the return of Christ and eternal realities? Preoccupy me with the pursuit of worldly success? Mute the sporadic leading of God’s Spirit in my life? Preoccupy me with dating and romance? Build up Christians and my local church? Center on what is necessary to me and beneficial to others? Disengage me from the needs of the neighbors God has placed right in front of me? Endanger others? Rob others of my help and friendship and presence?