

Trust and Love in a Digital World – Part 3

1 Corinthians 10:31; Coast Pastor's Class; Earl Miles June 25, 2017
Adapted from *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You* by Tony Reinke

The Crave of Immediate Approval

Why do we gravitate toward online approval?

1. We can appear to be different from what we really are.
2. We can separate ourselves from people who don't think like us and gravitate toward people who do.
3. The world is all about image and those with the 'right' image get the world's approval.

What is the problem with this?

1. We can prefer online fellowship to face-to-face fellowship. – 3 John 1:13-14
2. We can hinder 'sharpening' by those who aren't like us. – Proverbs 27:17
3. We can hinder learning from diverse groups and other generations. – 1 Kings 12:13-14
4. We are told not to seek the approval of man but the approval of God. – John 12:42-43; Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Hebrews 11:6
5. Pursuing the approval of man is contrary to finding our satisfaction in God. – John 5:39-47
6. We are what we are when no one's looking not when we are online and everyone's watching. – Matthew 23:25-28; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-5
7. We want immediate approval and affirmation when we are called to wait for it. – 1 Corinthians 4:3-5; Matthew 25:21
8. We are not to do things for the praise of men because it robs us of divine reward. - Matthew 6:1-4; Romans 2:29
9. Self-promotion and trying to please your 'audience' is contrary to living to please God and Christ-promotion. – 2 Corinthians 5:9; Philippians 2:3-7
10. The most important thing is not how many 'likes' or 'followers' you have but whether you have God's approval through Christ. – Romans 8:31-37; 2 Corinthians 10:18

Loss of Literacy

The point: focus on one thing for an extended period of time is becoming harder because of new technologies.

1. The Christian life is built on a book. – John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. And reading the Bible is an assumed activity of a person who is seeking to trust and love according to God's Word. - Deuteronomy 17:19; Nehemiah 8:3; Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; Luke 10:26; 1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3
3. A fairly large number of Christian smartphone users are becoming more voracious readers of nonfiction books.

4. Far more commonly though, smartphone users are reading fewer books.
5. It's hard to read a book in the 'endless digital cocktail party of multiple conversations' (texts, snaps, tweets, posts, emails, etc).
6. Captology is the study of how to use smartphones to capture attention and to adjust behavior patterns.
7. Digital readers naturally read too quickly and fail to linger long enough over the text to internalize it. – Psalm 1:1-3
8. New technology has decreased our attention span.
9. The problem is not illiteracy (inability to read) but aliteracy (digital skimming that fails to soak up or even identify what is most important).
10. Digital reading is unnecessarily hurried and this habit bleeds into how we read our Bibles.
11. 'Christian readers are more faithful to follow digital Bible reading plans on smartphones (with daily prompts) than print plans and offline reading.' (Reinke)
12. We can get used to 'digital junkfood' (trivial pleasures and momentary diversions) and have little appetite for the deeper, richer truths of Scripture.
13. Bible reading is incredibly demanding work that produces the greatest riches! – Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 2:1-5
14. Our challenge is to use social media in the service of the slow, serious reading of the Bible and sound theology and godly application.