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**Information Technology in the Christian Sphere**

Kaylen Fraze

## **IT (Information Technology) in the Christian Sphere**

In today's day and age, people are becoming increasingly immersed in and reliant on technology. This world has become a place where instant gratification and constant stimulation are normalized and expected. Understandably, Christians ask themselves if information technology is truly as beneficial as it is made out to be. Some Christians might even dub technology sinful as a whole. However, there is room for multiple uses of this technology. Maybe, if instead of fearing and running from technology, Christians took control of it, they would see that this tool is something that can be used in great ways.

### **Biblical Perspective on IT**

While it can be easy to demonize technology, Christians must understand that IT in and of itself is not to blame for its problems. Technology is a resource that has been granted to people by a Creator. As He creates, so His image-bearers create. These creations of creations are not to blame for the brokenness; it is the users who choose to utilize the technology in evil ways that are at fault. From the beginning of time, human nature has led humans to blame everything but themselves for the problems they have caused. In Genesis 3, Adam blamed Eve and by extension blamed God for his sin, even though he was completely the responsible party for his sin.<sup>1</sup> While this is not a perfect example since Eve did sin and was responsible for doing so, Adam's sin was his own and he chose to blame what God gave him for his own actions. This shows that the misplacement of blame by humans is not a new issue.

People are given gifts and talents that they are to use for good and not for evil. In the parable of the talents, it is seen that the man who buries what he has been given in the ground so he would not be responsible for any loss or gain is described as a "worthless servant"<sup>1</sup> (Matt. 25:14-30). There are a variety of gifts and talents that God gives to His people. In Exodus 31,

God calls together a team to use the abilities and intelligence that they had been given “to work in every craft.”<sup>1</sup> While the time in which this event took place did not have digital technology, these people were called to use the technology of their day to glorify God and bring about His will. To say that God is confined by time and cannot use the technology of today would be ludicrous and blasphemous.

### **The Use of IT for God**

Having established that information technology is not inherently bad as opposed to being able to be used for both good and bad, the next logical question is in what ways can it be used. There are many opportunities, and even if a Christian isn't working in ministry per se, he or she can make their workplace their ministry. Christians are needed in IT just as they are needed in other fields. In Prather's book review, he says, “Reinke's solution is not that technologists abandon their craft, but instead that tech producers and consumers alike learn to see God in their tech”.<sup>2</sup> God's people are *in* but not *of* this world, and they should be ambassadors for Christ in whatever sector they find themselves in.

That being said, there are many ways in which information technology can be used for God in ministry. One specific example is through online services and outreach opportunities. When the pandemic hit, it made in-person worship exponentially more difficult. Because of this, churches had to improvise and learn to do things a little differently. Online services made it possible to still build a sense of community in a time when physical community wasn't possible. Not only that, but the online world is also such a great place for outreach and making connections with those who might never step foot into a church otherwise. According to Point Loma Nazarene University,<sup>3</sup> “Churches have employed the use of certain digital mediums to help foster connections including the following: Websites, Blogs, Social Media, [and] Email

Newsletters.” The Gospel can be shared in so many more ways now that Christians are not defined by a physical landscape. As the church grows in the metaphysical world of technology, more Christian technicians are needed to work on that technology. The church needs people who are proficient in their craft to keep their websites running and their information private. Even though some aspects of technology might not be immediately thought of as something needed in ministry, things like cybersecurity and software engineering are all crucial if the church is to maintain its presence in the world of technology and the internet.

### **Conclusion**

While it would be easy to cast blame on technology itself for the evils surrounding it, Christians must take responsibility for how they are using it. God gives His creations many gifts, and it is their responsibility to nurture and invest those talents for His kingdom and glory. Sometimes, that means being a Christian in that field, though their field might not explicitly be a mission field or a church ministry. Other times, Christians are called to steward their giftings in a ministry setting. Regardless of where the Christian IT specialist finds themselves working, it is their calling to make disciples and use their gifts for God’s glory. As the world of technology expands, so will the ways in which God uses His people in that world.

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