

The danger zone

I. Introduction-

Cyber= Relating to or characteristic of the culture of computers, information technology, and virtual reality.

- A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. Prov 27:12
- The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he **rules** over everything. Ps 103>19

II. Who makes the rules in the cyber reality?

A. God makes the rules-

1. God is the ultimate authority and ruler of all-God= the supreme or ultimate reality

- The Being perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness who is worshipped as creator and ruler of the universe
- The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything. Ps 103:19
- You must not have any other god but me. ⁴“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵You must not bow down to them or worship them. Ex 20:3

2. The has given us clear rules to follow in cyber land-

- All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. II Tim 3:16
- Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. Rom 2:14
- Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6
- Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Phil 2:3
- I will lead a life of integrity in my own home. ³I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar. Ps 103:2
- Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Phil 2:8
- Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Eph 4:29
- Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Phil 4:14
- Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. Col 4:5
- Now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy. I Pet 1:15
- Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets. Mat 7:12

3. Out of love we follow and obey God-

- We can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. I Jn 4:3

B. I make my own rules-

- In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. Jud 21:25

“freedom has become perhaps the only publicly shared and acknowledged moral value in our culture”

“The modern attitude: most of us in America believe a few simple propositions that seem so clear and self-evident they scarcely need to be said. Choice is a good thing in life, and the more of we have, the happier we are. Authority is inherently suspect; nobody should have the right to tell others what to think or how to behave”

“The only sin which is not tolerated is intolerance.”

C. God allows us to make our own rules-

- Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. ²⁹Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. Rom 1:28

III. We choose our cyber addictions-

- Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Rom 6:16
- Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. I Pet 5:8

A. Addicted to technology

- For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. ²²An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. ²³He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his great foolishness. Prov 5:21

Addiction= compulsive need for and use of a habit-forming substance characterized by tolerance and by well-defined physiological symptoms upon withdrawal; broadly: persistent compulsive use of a substance or behavior known by the user to be harmful.

1. The addictions to technology-

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/dopamine>

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that helps control the brain’s reward and pleasure centers. **Dopamine** also helps regulate movement and emotional responses, and it enables us not only to see rewards, but to take action to move toward them.

A physical or psychological need for a habit-forming substance, experience or feeling. In an addiction, the person adapts to the substance, experience or feeling being used and gradually requires increased amounts to reproduce the effects originally produced by smaller doses.

2. What is the problem here?

- You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything. II Cor 6:12
- LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. Ps 39:4
- Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Lk 12:34

B. Addicted to lust-

- I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. Mat 5:28

C. The rebuttal to tech addictions-

- Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. Gal 7:7
- Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. Heb 4:13
- O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ²You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. ³You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. Ps 139:1

IV. Summary and application-

- Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. Rom 12:21
- Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²²throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. Eph 4:21