

# Electronic Communication and the Christian Life

## Interpersonal Communication via Electronic Technology

This article is an attempt to discuss the complex subject of electronic communication and its use within the Christian life. We are referring to electronic communication as speech or information that is given or received electronically.

We find ourselves within an era that has many forms of electronic technology integrated into everyday living. As a result, we find it increasingly difficult to separate ourselves from the advances of electronic communication. However, we believe that through faith in Jesus Christ and His teachings, it is both necessary and possible to live a life that is acceptable to God. *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.” (Eph. 5:15).*

Electronic communication is an indicator. We can find many beneficial uses for most electronic communications, but with a wrong motive or intent they can also be used for evil. As with many other actions, our usage of electronic communication indicates what is in our heart. Jeremiah 17:9 teaches: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”* Therefore, we must allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives, including our usage of electronic communication. *“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:43-45).*

Electronic communication is also a motivator. We are moved or motivated to take action and get involved in things based on information or communications that we receive. Since electronic communication is convenient and quick, we can have the tendency to respond with very little thought. We should make sure that our communications are upbuilding to our spiritual wellbeing. Phil. 4:9 says: *“Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise think on these things.”* We are exhorted in Ephesians 5:4 to have *“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”*

Our usage of electronic communications can also be a reflector of our circumstances and experiences in life. Past experiences in life shape our thinking patterns. We must be sure to purify our hearts from all past hurts, malice, or bitterness because, *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Mat.12:34)* *“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;” (Heb.12:15)*

Electronic communication is a connector. With the technology that is available today we can almost instantly connect with anybody or find out information about anything in the world. We have a choice with whom or what we will connect. As Christians we must choose our connections for worthy and up-building causes. *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life.” (Deuteronomy 30:19b)* *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” (1 Corinthians 15:33).*

Finally, our electronic communication is a determining factor of our eternal destiny. Mat.12:35-37 Says: *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”* Also Revelation 20:12-13 *“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”*

Our Anabaptist forefathers, with the best of their abilities, lived God-centered lives. Because of their efforts, we have a foundation that enables us to deal with challenges in our generation. The challenge of wholesome communication via technology should not defeat us. The victory is ours if we fight the battle according to Scripture.

In conclusion, our goal is to encourage anyone reading this article to live according to Psalms 19:14. *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

