

Technology Seminar

- Technology: what is it, and where is it going?
- A Biblical view of technology – and its effects
- The desire to create – God’s image in us
- Fear God, or fear _____ ?
- **The heart of the matter – and the Anabaptist response**

So where are we today?

- Rapidly changing world
- Coalescing technologies in Information Age
- Nature of technology – *amoral* - knowledge
 - Its applications – *moral* in every way - wisdom
- Obsolescing of standards that controlled technology
 - The model of technology has changed
- Dangers of technology as master; or misuse of it
- Divisions and strife within church; fears

Merle Burkholder
Faith Builders April 2005 Colloquy

“We are *much* better at abstinence than we are at moderation”

- We are **good** at saying, “If it is dangerous, NO - don’t do it”
- We are **poor** at saying, “There’s some danger, some benefit - how can we use this with moderation?”
- Anabaptists are not taught moderation

Moderation principle

“Keep thy heart with all
diligence; for out of it are the
issues of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

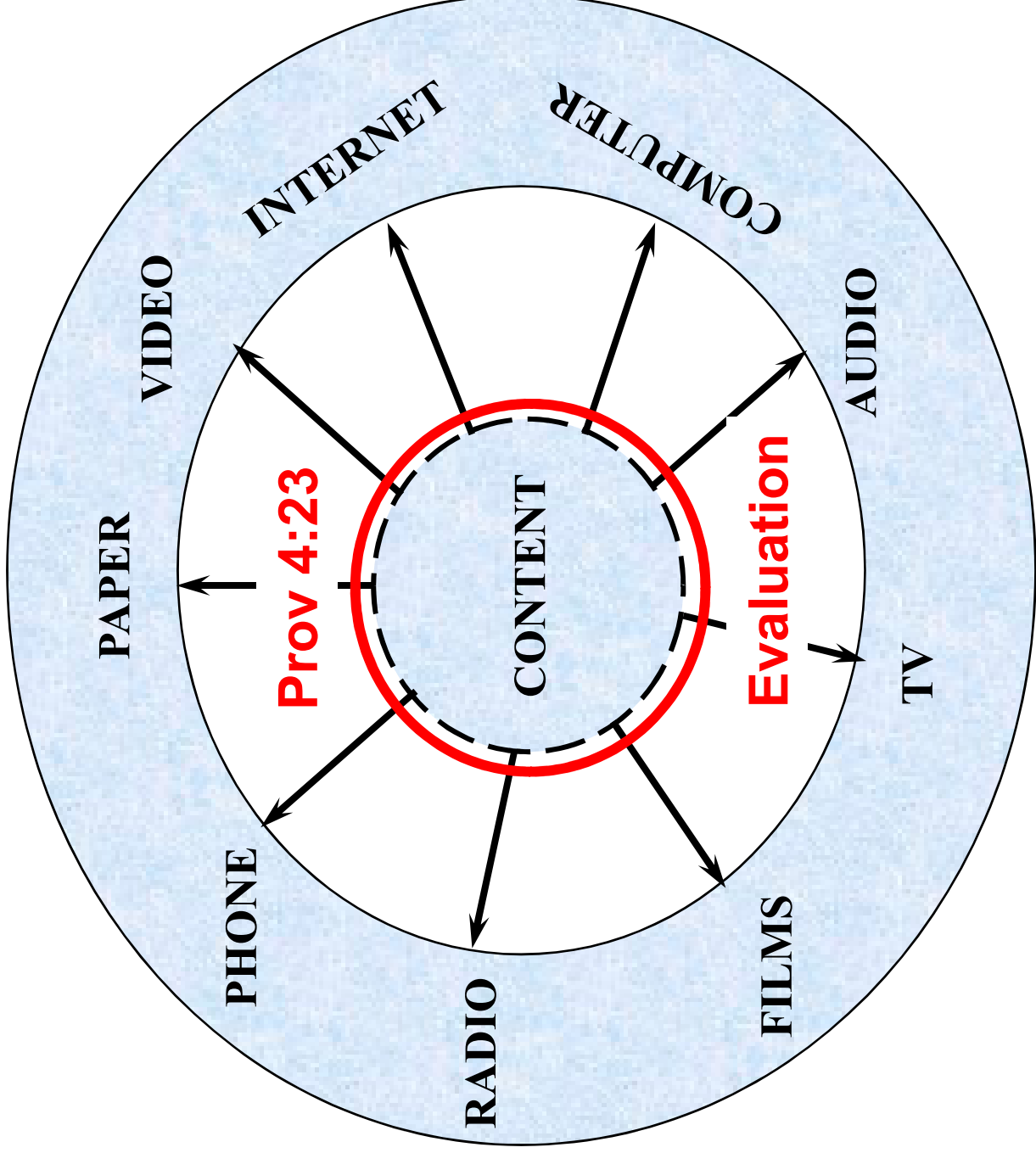
Evaluation

The heart of the matter

- I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes
(Ps 103:3)

Is that about a *technology* or about
content ?

The heart of the matter



A place for methods of control

- Technology based
 - Internet filters (various types)
 - All can be defeated
- Abstinence
 - Suitable for some areas
- Brotherhood
 - Accountability
- All are secondary to the heart of the matter

So what is the future for Anabaptists?

Technology is only a part of the discussion
we must have about *who* we are

“There has been a tendency to substitute a quiet inner piety for an aggressive spirit which personally assumes the obligations of Christian discipleship in the face of a hostile world”

J. C. Wenger, Glimpses of Mennonite History and Doctrine, 1947

Note the NT tone

“Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail* against it” (Matt 16:18)

Prevail = to be superior in strength

“Contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)

A question for your church

Why is *your* church in *your* community?

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

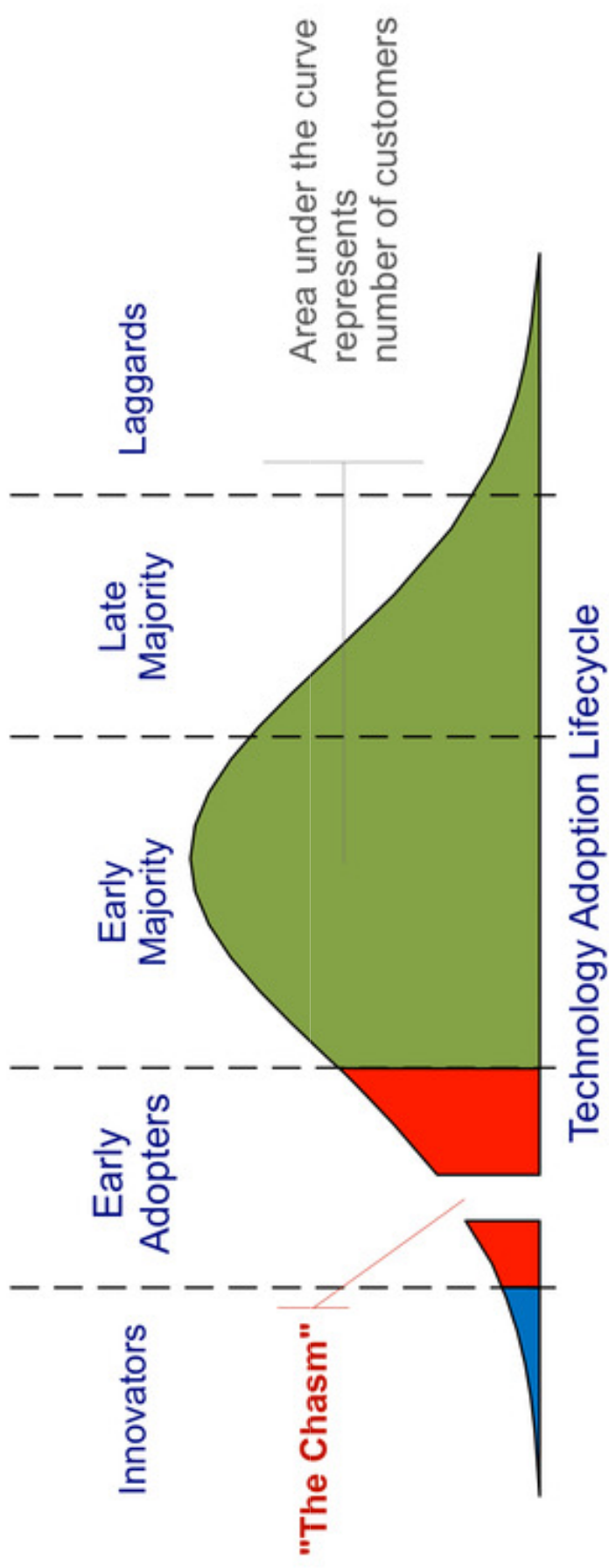
1 Cor 12:18

Engagement

Another question

- Are you a student of the culture where God has placed you?
- Acts 17:16 – 23
 - Saw (idolatry)
 - Perceive (superstitious)
 - Observed / beheld (devotions)
 - Found (altar)

Who are your neighbors?



Compare culture with our mission

- Culture: an intangible part of a group
- The pattern of basic assumptions, values, and beliefs adopted by people over time because they were found to be effective in addressing the problems or environments faced by the organization

Management proverb

“Your culture is perfectly designed to produce the results you are getting”

Are we becoming – and making – disciples for the battleground of the 21st century?

This may lead to changes but ...

- People have a level of capacity for change

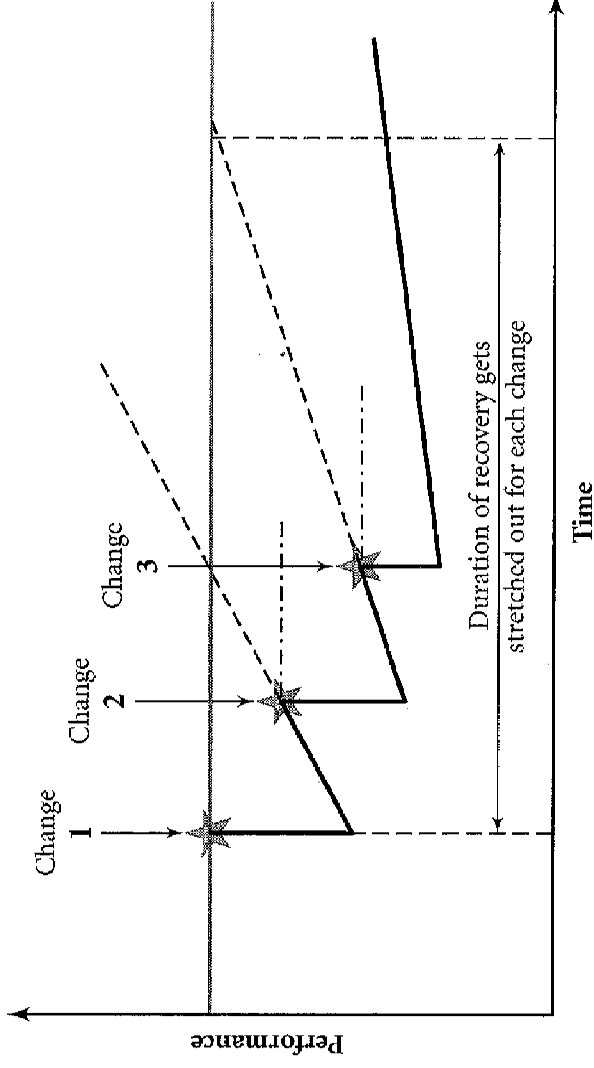


Figure 8.1. The cumulative effect of overlapping changes on performance recovery

Change the Way You Lead Change, Herold and Fedor

Successful change

- People have a level of capacity for change

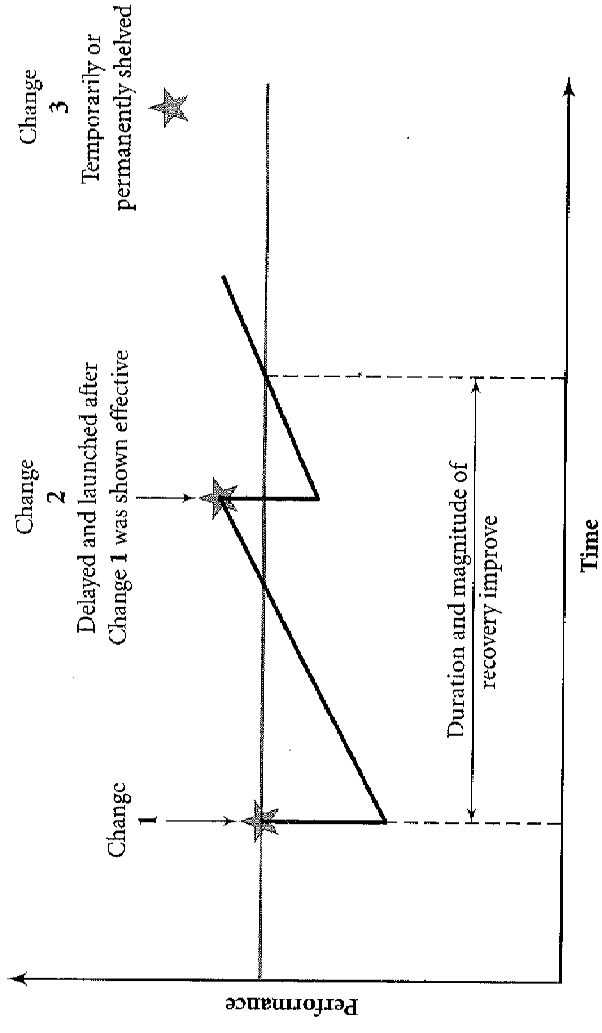


Figure 8.2. Rearranging changes so as to reduce change turbulence

Practical steps toward change

- Think: what difficulties will most likely happen?
- What are the consequences of letting change take its course?
- If these are not acceptable, how do we better manage any change?
- How do we measure the effect?
- How do we resolve differences?

The discussion within the church

- Is it ready in love to deal with the issue?
 - Is the goal in mind (making disciples) ?
 - How will a decision affect the brethren?
- Will grave danger enter the church? What fears must we face in the body?

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

Engagement & evaluation

The discussion within the church

- What will be our witness to the lost? Will we become quaint, interesting but irrelevant to our community?
- Who are the people we are called to minister to in this community, with the people God has placed in the body?
- How will changes affect us?
- **Make conscious, prayerful decisions**

Leading the way

- Church leaders
 - Preparing the land?
 - Strategic thinking?
- Parents
 - Leading so we can teach our children?
 - Tactical teaching?
- Will the next generation be better prepared than we were?

Guard the heart;

Pursue the mission

Q & A

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