

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

What is the nature of objects?

- Moral – acting in accordance with standards and precepts
- Immoral – contrary to the standards and precepts
- Amoral – not having moral distinctions

What we must distinguish: Technology vs application

- Technology
- Application or usage

Amoral

Moral/Immoral

- Ethyl alcohol
 - Beverage?
 - Auto fuel?
 - Medicine?

- Here we discern good and evil intent



But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 1:14-15

So – what is a biblical view of technology?

- Technology enables us to do things better
 - Either good or bad things
- The moral content of technology comes from the hand that uses it
 - We need to be honest about our role – any sinful use is from our hearts
 - To call any object “evil” is to reduce *our* responsibility

What effects does it have?

- Master or servant?
 - Korean couple in May 2010
- Expectation of instant satisfaction
- Productivity enhancement? Or diversion?
- Blessing to spiritual life?
- Ministry – open doors?

The effect on the church

One primary factor – the quality of relationships within the brethren

Technology will expose weaknesses

Weaknesses come from relating out of fear

Fear: toward new, change

Fear: toward being left behind

Let's see how this works ...

If we relate based on fear -

- We will not relate out of love
- We will protect ourselves (inward)
- We will have a lack love toward others (outward)
- We will have a lack of trust
 - Cannot have fruitful discussions

Two primary divisions in the church – fear

1. Generational

Time is relative

- 60 years old
- 25% of your life?
- 15 years
- 16 years old
- 25% ?
- **4 years!**

Fear of change

- 40 years
- 25% is ?
- 10 years

Fear of being left behind

Two primary divisions in the church – fear

1. Generational
2. Economic

“Greatest challenges facing the Anabaptist church”

Merle Burkholder
Faith Builders April 2005 Colloquy

“Economics is the (one) thing that changes our rules more easily than anything else”

Can't change rules
—————
Follow all the rules

Inflexible

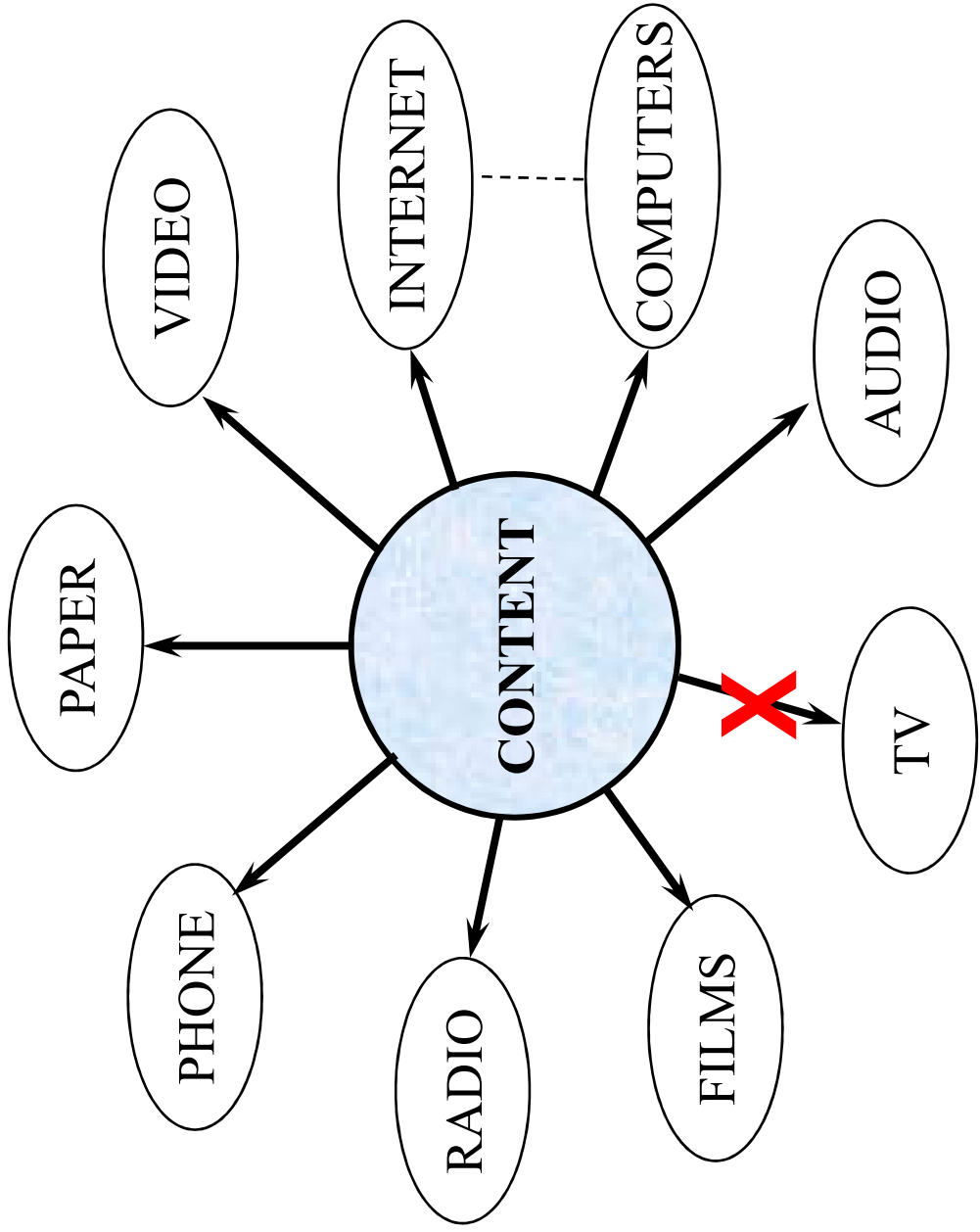
Can't change rules
—————
Allow the change

Hypocritical

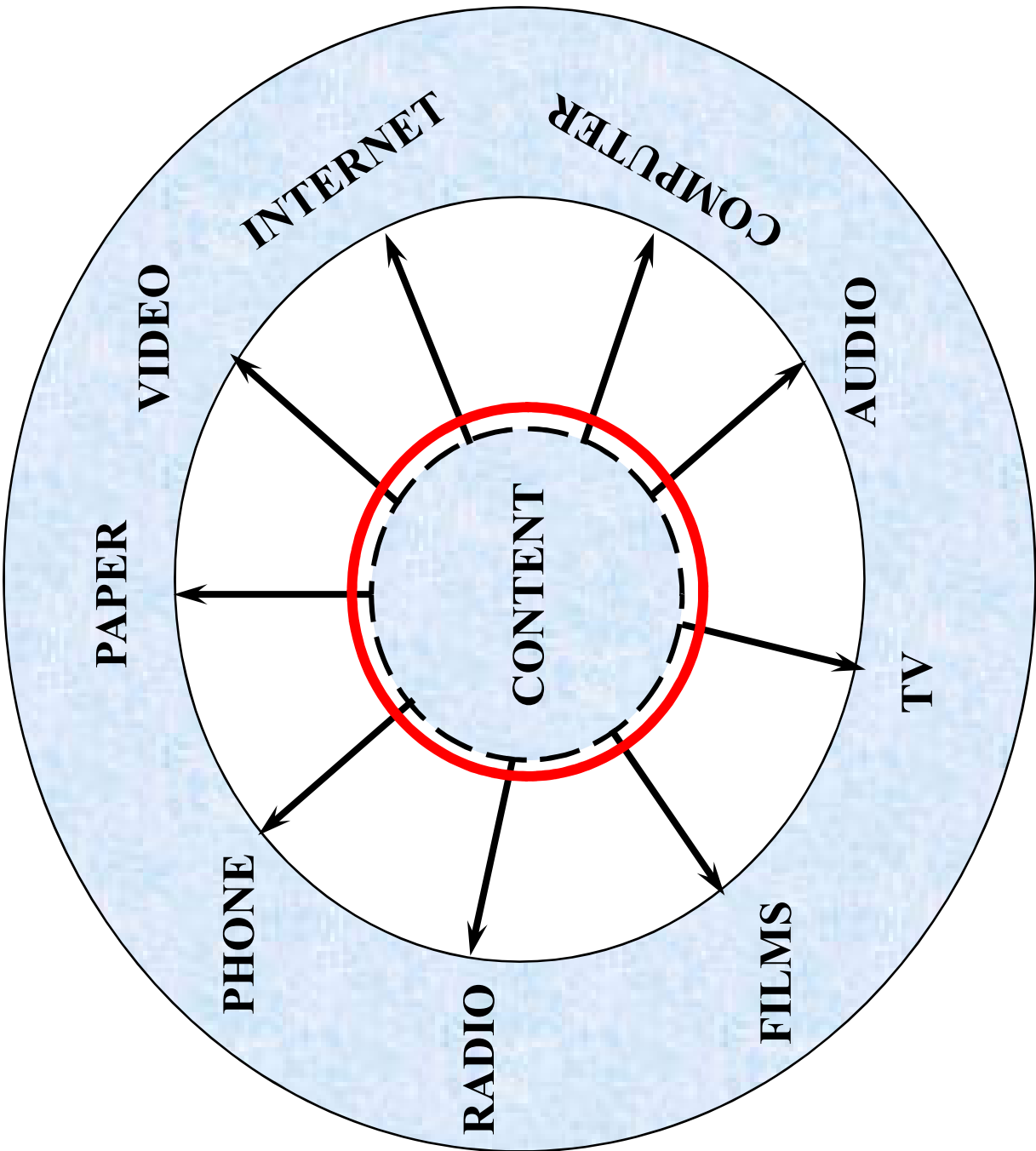
Change the rules
—————
Allow the change

Free-for-all

The world as it was



New world needs different guards



Summary

- Technology is amoral
 - Applications are moral in every way
- Technology affects each person
 - For good (productivity) or bad (divert off path)
- Technology affects the church
 - Exposes our weaknesses
 - Can divide us
 - Changes how the world works
 - Make many standards obsolete

Q & A