FROM EDEN to AI

SESSION 1

Faith & Technology

John Wycliffe
(c. 1328–1384)

Jan Hus
(c. 1372–1415)

All history would agree that the observance of Reformation Day in the 21st century has far less to do with the man than the moment.

Martin Luther was not the first to attempt a translation of the Bible into the vernacular of the common person. John Wycliffe is said to have finished a translation of the Bible into Middle English before his death in 1384.

Nor was Luther the first to draw the ire of the Roman church for calling for reform. Jan Hus was burned at the stake in 1415 after denouncing the church's unbiblical teachings and the moral failings of the pope.

If you asked why the Reformation happened when it did, the answer might include indulgences, politics, or a monk named Martin, but technology had an undeniable role.

Martin Luther
(1483–1546)

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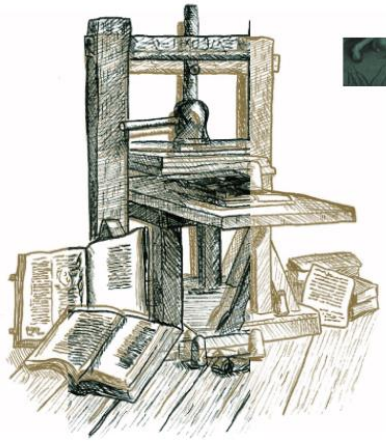

The Power of the Press

With the advent of Gutenberg's printing press, Luther's convictions could travel far beyond the reach of his voice. His writings could be scooped up, translated, published, and distributed far and wide in a way that would have seemed almost instantaneous at the time.

What if Luther had exactly the same theology, courage, and willingness to stand up to the authorities, but there were no printing presses?

TECHNOLOGY is what human beings make in response to the limits of being human.

- *earliest tools*
- *wheel*
- *writing*
- *glasses*
- *medicine*
- *camera*
- *telegraph*
- *airplane*
- *computer*
- *GPS*
- *Internet*
- *AI*

comes from somewhere **TECHNOLOGY** *is going somewhere*

What are some things human beings were not made to do?

HUMANITY has always been defined by limitation.

[The serpent] said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

The fall doesn't corrupt **TECHNOLOGY**.

The root of our broken relationship to technology is actually our broken relationship with **GOD**.

TEMPTATION SAYS:

"Your creaturely limits are unacceptable.
You should be more than God has made you to be."

HUMAN CREATIVITY SAYS:

"Maybe I can do something that will help."

SIN SAYS:

"I can't and I refuse to accept it."

Technology as **VOCATION** can be:

- *a means of loving neighbor*
- *an expression of creativity*
- *an exercise of dominion*
- *a way of cultivating God's creation*

It **ASKS**:

"God has given me limitations.
How can I faithfully work within them?"

Technology as **IDOLATRY** can become:

- *an attempt at self-salvation*
- *an instrument of domination*
- *a means of avoiding godly dependence*
- *an amplifier of sinful desires*

It **ASKS**:

"God has given me limitations.
How can I eliminate them?"

THE TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS

What human limiation does this technology address?

What human good does it attempt to achieve?

What new limitations does it create?

Who benefits?

Who bears the cost?

What does it cause us to value or neglect?

Does it strengthen or weaken human vocation?

Does it bring us closer to our neighbor or help us avoid them?

Does it help us live as creatures or encourage us to imagine ourselves as something more?

CREATION

What good capacity of God's creation does this technology extend?

FALL

What sinful desire does this technology amplify?

REDEMPTION

How might Christians use it for the good of the neighbor?

VOCATION

What human responsibility does it change but not eliminate?

LIMITATION

What human limitation does it address and which limitations must remain?

HOPE

What problem can technology never ultimately solve?

It's ultimately not a question of whether technology is good or bad. It's a question of what technology reveals about us as human beings, what it does to us, and how we live faithfully within a technological world.

Because what if some of our limitations are actually gifts? If we think about it, we all have limitations we wish we didn't. But consider what would be impossible for you *without* that limitation.

Because I can't be everywhere, *I therefore have to be **somewhere***. Because I can't live forever, *therefore my days **matter***. Because I can't do everything, *I therefore need **other people***. Because I can't know everything, *I therefore have to **trust***. And because I can't save myself, *I therefore I need a **Savior.***