



TALKING POINTS

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Transhumanism and the Image of God *Today's Technology and the Future of Christian Discipleship*

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Is the Future of Technology a Positive Movement?

We're constantly invited to think about the future of technology as a progressive improvement of tools: our gadgets will continue to evolve, but we humans will stay basically the same. In the future, perhaps even alien species and intelligent robots will coexist right alongside humans, who will grapple with challenges and emerge as the heroes. But the truth is that radical technological change has the power to radically shape humans as well. We must be well informed and thoughtful about the steps we're already taken toward a transhuman or even posthuman future. Can we find firm footing on a slippery slope? Biblical ethicist Jacob Shatzer guides us into careful consideration of the future of Christian discipleship in a disruptive technological environment. In *Transhumanism and the Image of God*, Shatzer explains the development and influence of the transhumanist movement, which promotes a "next stage" in human evolution.

Exploring topics such as artificial intelligence, robotics, medical technology, and communications tools, he examines how everyday technological changes have already altered and continue to change the way we think, relate, and understand reality. Cautioning against the belief that Christians can easily direct any technology toward following Christ, Shatzer grapples with the potential for technology to transform the way we think about what it means to be human and what sort of future we hope for.

- What is transhumanism? What is posthumanism?
- What is the link between everyday technology consumption and transhumanism?
- Where does technology have the potential to impact our spiritual formation?
- Where and why does technology run counter to human flourishing?
- How historically has technology changed the way we see the world?
- What do you mean when you write, "technology is far from neutral"?
- What is "acute technological opacity"?
- How is technology moral or amoral?
- You write about technology being able to recruit people into its way of viewing the world. Why is this problematic?
- Why is addiction such an important part of understanding technology's effect on us?
- What is the difference between transhumanism and the need for perfection?
- If we are charged with stewardship of creation, why is transhumanism problematic?
- You write about "morphological freedom." What does that mean in terms of transhumanism?



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