

CHRISTIAN FAITH IN A HYPER(DIS)CONNECTED WORLD

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INTRODUCTION

- Drawing near and pulling apart – “the irony of the internet” (David Kennedy)
- Hyperconnectivity: a sociotechnical phenomenon

PART ONE: DESCRIPTION

A. DIGITAL HYPERCONNECTIVITY: AN OVERVIEW

1. Undeniable benefits
2. Negative impact
3. Perpetual connectivity
 - “a state of pervasive and permanent connectivity”
 - Transparent, invisible and natural
 - Tethered to our devices

B. EASIER, FASTER, MORE, AND WIDER

1. Frictionless interface: ease of use and convenience
2. Immediacy: the tyranny of the instantaneous
3. Accessibility: when more becomes less
4. Superficiality: skimming the surface

C. THE ATTENTION ECONOMY

1. Value-laden digital technologies
2. Monetization of attention: the competition for eyeballs

D. DIGITAL CONFORMITY

1. Liberation or incarceration?
 - 1.1. We are more captive than we know
 - 1.2. Ideological indoctrination
2. Shaping of identity
3. When solidarity gives way to 'solitariness'

E. THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REVOLUTION

1. The materialistic worldview of AI
2. AI utopianism: en route to the AI promised land?

PART TWO: DIAGNOSIS

A. HUMAN CREATIVITY AND HUBRIS

1. Humans as "created co-creators" - technological innovations as expression of God-endowed creativity
2. God-like pretensions and the spirit of Babel

B. TURBO-CHARGING EROSION OF TRUTH AND TRUST

1. Truth replaced by truths
2. Decentering anti-authoritarianism

C. TECHNOLOGICAL DEHUMANISATION

1. When I-It eclipses I-Thou
2. Ironic dehumanisation

PART THREE: DISCIPLESHIP

A. ON BEING A CHANGING UNCHANGING CHURCH

1. A changing church in a changing world
 - 1.1. Adaptive and innovative faithfulness
 - 1.2. Die for your message, not your method

2. An unchanging church in an unchanging world
 - 2.1. Realism about human fallenness
 - 2.2. Primal human needs unchanged
 - 2.3. Commandment and commission still in force

B. COUNTER-CULTURAL FORMATION

1. Commit to counter-liturgies
2. Growing deep by going slow
3. Stewardship of attention

C. INCARNATIONAL FAITH

1. The “discarnate man” (McLuhan)
2. Embodiment and community

D. THE CROSS AS ANTIDOTE AND ANCHOR

1. The Cross for digital inhabitants
2. Carthusian stability