

A Philosophy of Technology

Wherever two or more are gathered for any purpose there will be some thought given to a standard of technology. Each home has a written or an unwritten technology code that has evolved over a period of time. Each organization at some point has to make some statement about what they expect in terms of the technology choices of the members of that organization. Cortland Christian Academy is no exception to this issue. Because technology choices are often seen as a right of personal identity, there needs to be some statement of purpose that gives the reasons why an organization such as Cortland Christian Academy specifies its particular code. That is the purpose of this article.

In articulating a philosophy of technology it needs to be stressed that Cortland Christian Academy does not equate spirituality with a certain standard of technology. The use of technology within the prescribed boundaries does not indicate that a person is right with God. It does, however, indicate that a person is willing to adjust himself to the direction of the organization. This is an important character quality to develop in light of workplace realities beyond the school years. Having said that, there are four basic principles that come into play in the responsible use of technology code at Cortland Christian Academy. They are principles that allow our technology code to flex with the culture without becoming vulnerable to the latest whims of the marketplace.

First, there is **the principle of purpose**. This is a common sense principle. Technology is designed to accomplish two things. One, it is designed for communication. Two, it is designed to function for a particular purpose—the work place, education, and entertainment. There are also spiritual applications with regard to the use of technology. In Philippians 2.3-4, we are instructed to regard others as more important than ourselves. This indicates that no matter what we are involved with we need to make sure the others around us feel acknowledged and included. We live in an increasingly rude and selfish culture, but there is no Scriptural permission to adapt to that culture in those areas. In our effort to incorporate a responsible use of technology code, Cortland Christian Academy seeks to have a policy that will make the school setting a place where people will feel welcome and accepted as they walk through our corridors.

Building on this we move to the **second** principle, **the principle of first impression**. In Matthew 7:16-20 Jesus speaks at length about identifying people on the basis of their choices (fruit). It is an unavoidable fact that everyone makes judgment calls on the basis of how we choose to use technology. When people opt to use technology they make it necessary for others to work through questions before they can get to know them. Sometimes people are unwilling to work through those questions. In that case a person's technology choice may have denied them an opportunity to meet someone who could have been important in their life. On a broader level, visitors to the Academy will take with them a first impression of the school as a whole on the basis of the use of technology of its students and faculty. It is the Academy's desire to have its students individually and the school corporately present a positive first impression.

The third principle is **the principle of respect**. The frequent references to "honor" in the Bible (Romans 13:7) leave no doubt that respect for others is to be a part of a person's character. With regard to technology, every culture has a defined way of demonstrating respect through the way in which they use technology. That means that Cortland Christian Academy will continue to advance the use of technology that is still clearly understood as respectful in an educational setting.

Finally, there is **the principle of place** – 1 Peter 2:13; 5:5. Ultimately the place where one chooses to study or work has the responsibility of establishing a technology code. Because of that, those who choose to be involved in that organization accept their own responsibility to work within that code unless it calls on them to

use technology immorally, or unsafely. While submission to a responsible use of technology code is not necessarily a sign of spirituality, the unnecessary resistance to a responsible use of technology code does indicate a personal problem that needs to be addressed. Life calls for many choices that we might prefer not to make. One may prefer a certain freedom of use for technology, but to choose to work in or attend an organization where those items are limited means that the freedom of use is replaced with the limitation. To promise to comply with an organization's responsible use of technology code and then seek to push the limits does not express individuality, it expresses bad ethics. It is our hope that this article will help you to understand and think through the spirit behind Cortland Christian Academy's responsible use of technology code. It is also our hope that you would feel that you could work with this code and help your student learn the importance of principles of technology use in the workplace.