

The Church In The iWorld Resources for Further Study

If you are interested in studying more about the Church in the iWorld, and the influence of modern technology and culture on our lives, the following resources have been helpful in research for the series and in helping understand how technology can shape us - in ways both good and bad.



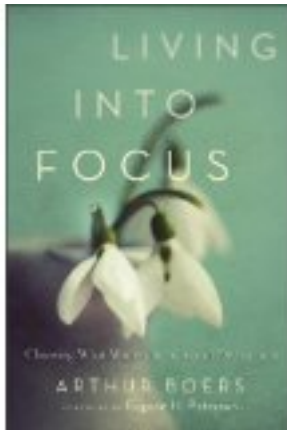
The Next Story - Life and Faith After the Digital Explosion by Tim Challies

This is the best introductory work on this subject for Christians. In this book Challies, a well known Christian blogger, thinker, and leader, discuss the history and impact of technology - and especially digital technology - for those trying to live as disciples of Christ. It begins with an overview of technology and how it affects the individuals and communities that are touched by it and who use it. This provides an important philosophical framework for discussing specific effects of various digital technologies, debunking the myth of technology being "neutral." It then covers various areas where technology affects us - including areas such as communication, truth, authority, distraction, and privacy. In each chapter he gives thought provoking information, asks probing questions, and gives helpful advice. A highly recommended resource.



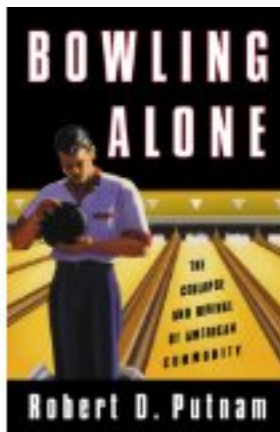
Mars Hill Audio Journal by Ken Myers

The MARS HILL AUDIO Journal is a bimonthly "audio magazine" featuring over one hundred minutes of conversation with perceptive and engaging thinkers examining the ideas, institutions, practices, and fashionable assumptions that shape our cultural lives. Its host and producer, Ken Myers, was previously an arts and humanities editor for National Public Radio and has over 30 years of experience in cultural journalism. Each edition of the Journal features interviews with six to eight guests from a wide range of disciplines as well as commentary by Ken Myers. Most of our guests have authored books examining either some aspect of our cultural experience or the interaction of historical forces that have created the cultural conditions in which we presently live. Many of the books I have used in researching this series were discovered through interviews I listened to on the *Journal*. This resource is available in the church library.



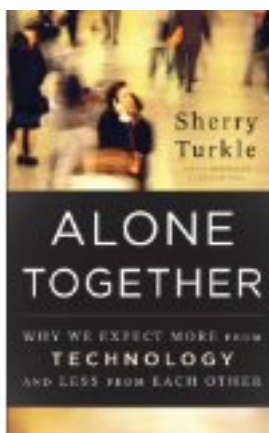
Living Into Focus by Arthur Boer

This book is about the importance of developing focus in our lives so that we are not simply swept into a torrent of activity by our modern culture. The author, a seminary professor from Canada who has also lived and taught in the US, recommends the development of focal practices. These are activities which require significant time and commitment, but which in turn give great satisfaction and shape to our lives. The commitment required not only gives satisfaction as we grow in the practice, but also forces us to choose *not* to do other activities, which keeps our lives focused.



Bowling Alone by Robert D. Putnam

This book is about the change in the practices of Americans beginning during the last third of the 20th century which led to the diminishment of community. This book is a sociological look at massive quantities of data surrounding the community involvement of Americans in a host of areas - political, civic, religious, workplace, and volunteer. Putnam shows that during this period we have become more isolated from one another and less likely to form real communal bonds, and he examines what has led to this decline. The book is more in depth than many will care to read, but if you are looking for solid sociological research in this area, it is a good place to start.



Alone Together - Why We Expect More From Technology and Less From Each Other by Sherry Turkle

Sherry Turkle has been studying the relationship between people and technology for most of her career. Her main focus has been of the question “How does technology change our ways of seeing ourselves and the world?” She is concerned not only with what technology does *for* us but also what it does *to* us. She believes that we are at a critical moment at present, and that we need to proceed very carefully. Like *Bowling Alone*, some will find the discussion in this book to be too technical and esoteric, but if you are interested in reading some fascinating studies on how people are responding to the latest technology, especially robotics, this is a great place to start.