

Resources for Lead 902

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## Resources

For Contemporary Issues in Leadership IV, this writer has elected to discuss new media/technology and its impact, on today's church. Continuing with the concentration of Ecclesiastical Leadership, the following books are listed below for review and approval.

1. The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, the Gospel, and Church by Shane Hipps.

The reviews of this book are mixed, from some stating that it is timely and some stating that they do not understand what he is attempting to convey. Shane Hipps presents the effects of media technology and how it has impacted the church as a whole and believers themselves. He presents the positives and negatives of media technology and is asking the readers the following questions:

Is media/technology value-neutral?

How has technology changed the way we think about Scripture, community, and worship?

What cultural opportunities has the church missed?

How should the church position itself to take advantage of coming cultural trends, providing both history and prophecy,

2. iGods: How Technology Shapes Our Spiritual and Social Lives by Craig Detweiler

This book by Craig Detweiler asks the Christian to view the conveniences of technology that are present today, such as cell phones and our apparent addiction to them and compare it to the Christian virtue of patience. While his analysis is not solely geared in this direction he is asking the readers to look at the possibilities and the perils that technology offers the Believers.

3. Cybertheology: Thinking Christianity in the Era of the Internet by Antonio Spadaro

Antonio Spadaro discusses the digital revolution and the impact it has had on our lives. In addition, he pursues this thought from a Catholic perspective. Over the years he explains how the Internet has changed from the initial introduction, so it is important to see how those changes have impacted the communication and how the church itself is viewed. Several persons feel that it is worthwhile to read and he takes the reader through the pros and cons of social media as it relates to the faith community. New technology has an impact on how we communicate in the world and it is here to stay.

#### 4. Shaping a Digital World: Faith, Culture and Computer Technology by Derek C. Schuurman

One review simply said that Schuurman writes a book on how to view technology from a spiritual prospective. Schuurman guides the readers to see the digital world as part of God's good creation, fallen yet redeemable according to the law of God. This book looks at how faith and technology interacts. Schuurman looks at the good and the bad of technology. One reviewer says that Schuurman places computer technology within the big picture of the biblical story.

## References

- Detweiler, C. (2014). *IGods: How technology shapes our spiritual and social lives*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press.
- Hipps, S. A. (2005). *The hidden power of electronic culture: How media shapes faith, the Gospel, and Church*. Grand Rapids, Mi: Zondervan.
- Schuurman, D. C. (2013). *Shaping a digital world: Faith, culture and computer technology*. Downers Grove, Il.
- Spadaro, A. (2014). *Cybertheology: Thinking Christianity in the era of the internet*. New York, NY: Fordham University Press.