

Technology as Discipline

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Outline

- What is discipline and technology.
- Why technology disciplines us.
- How technology disciplines us.
- Technology disciplining our understanding of the Christian life.
- Evaluating if technological discipline is good or bad.

What is Technology?

```
<i class="fa fa-check-square fa-3x"></i>
<h3>Happy Clients</h3>
</div>
end first count item -->
second count item -->
class="col-md-3 col-sm-6 col-xs-12 text-center wow fadeInDown"
-wow-duration="500ms" data-wow-delay="200ms">
div class="counters-item">
  <div>
    <span data-speed="3000" data-to="565">565</span>
  </div>
  <i class="fa fa-check-square fa-3x"></i>
  <h3>Projects completed</h3>
</div>
end second count item -->
third count item -->
class="col-md-3 col-sm-6 col-xs-12 text-center wow fadeInDown"
-wow-duration="500ms" data-wow-delay="400ms">
div class="counters-item">
  <div>
    <span data-speed="3000" data-to="95">95</span>
    <span>%</span>
  </div>
  <i class="fa fa-thumbs-up fa-3x"></i>
  <h3>Positive feedback</h3>
</div>
end third count item -->
fourth count item -->
class="col-md-3 col-sm-6 col-xs-12 text-center wow fadeInDown"
-wow-duration="500ms" data-wow-delay="600ms">
div class="counters-item kill-margin-bottom">
  <div>
    <span data-speed="3000" data-to="2500">2500</span>
  </div>
  <i class="fa fa-thumbs-up fa-3x"></i>
  <h3>Pixel Perfect</h3>
</div>
end fourth count item -->
</div>
</div>
```

```
@media (min-width: 992px) {
  .navbar-inverse .navbar-nav>li>a {
    padding: 30px 10px;
  }
  .navbar-inverse .smaller .navbar-nav>li>a {
    padding: 20px 10px;
  }
  .navbar-inverse .navbar-nav>li {
    padding-right: 0;
  }
  #slitSlider .carousel-caption h2 {
    font-size: 50px;
  }
  #nav-dots {
    display: block;
  }
  #nav-arrows {
    display: none;
  }
  .icon-box {
    margin: 0 auto;
    width: 60%;
  }
  .about-content {
    margin: 0 auto 40px;
    padding: 0;
    width: 60%;
  }
  .why-item {
    margin: 0 auto 35px;
    text-align: center;
    width: 50%;
  }
}
```




Photo: Pexels.com / SpaceX



What is Technology?

- C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man* (p. 88):

For the wise men of old the cardinal problem had been how to conform the soul to reality, and the solution had been knowledge, self-discipline, and virtue. For magic and applied science alike the problem is how to subdue reality to the wishes of men: the solution is a technique;
. . . .
- “Reality”: Both human and non-human, others and self.

What is Discipline?



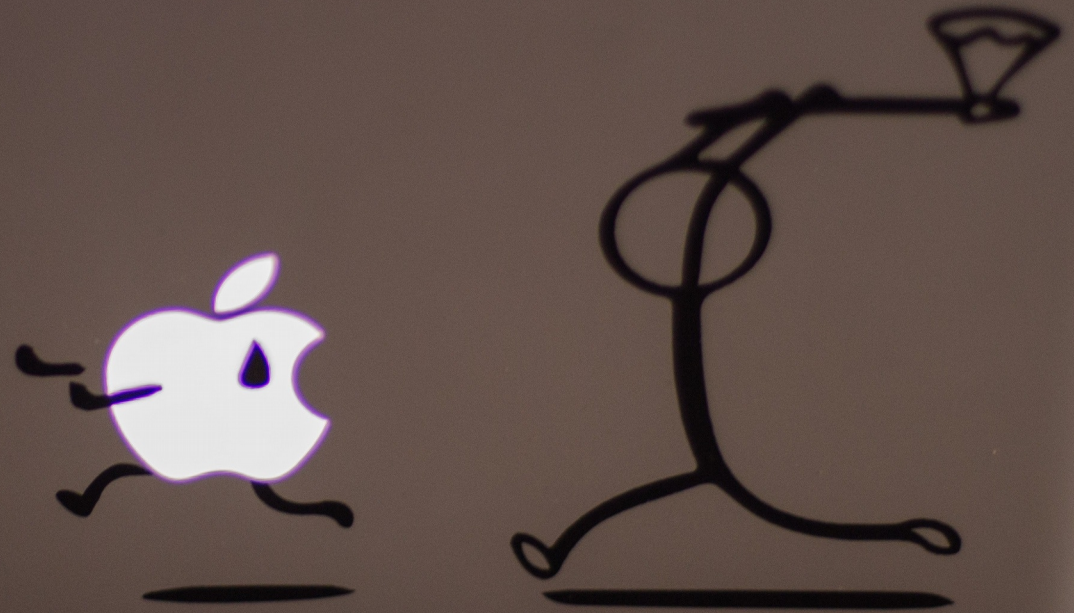




What is Discipline?

- Not something you study (***a*** discipline).
- Something you do or is done to you (***to*** discipline).
- Examples: Parental discipline, spiritual discipline.

Why Does Technology Discipline Us?



Why Does Technology Discipline Us?

- The universe (including ourselves) is sacramental:
 - The material and spiritual are linked: “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Matt 25:40)
 - The universe is not a world solely of forms.
- Human beings are designed to be disciplined:
 - We are supposed to thrive through discipline.
 - “If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.” (Heb 12:8)
 - If we want to be healthy, we have to accept discipline. The choice is rather constructive or destructive discipline.
- Technology is a tool but not a *mere* tool.

How Technology Disciplines Us: Affecting Our Capabilities



How Technology Disciplines Us: Shaping Our Environment



How Technology Disciplines Us: Affects View of the Nature of the World

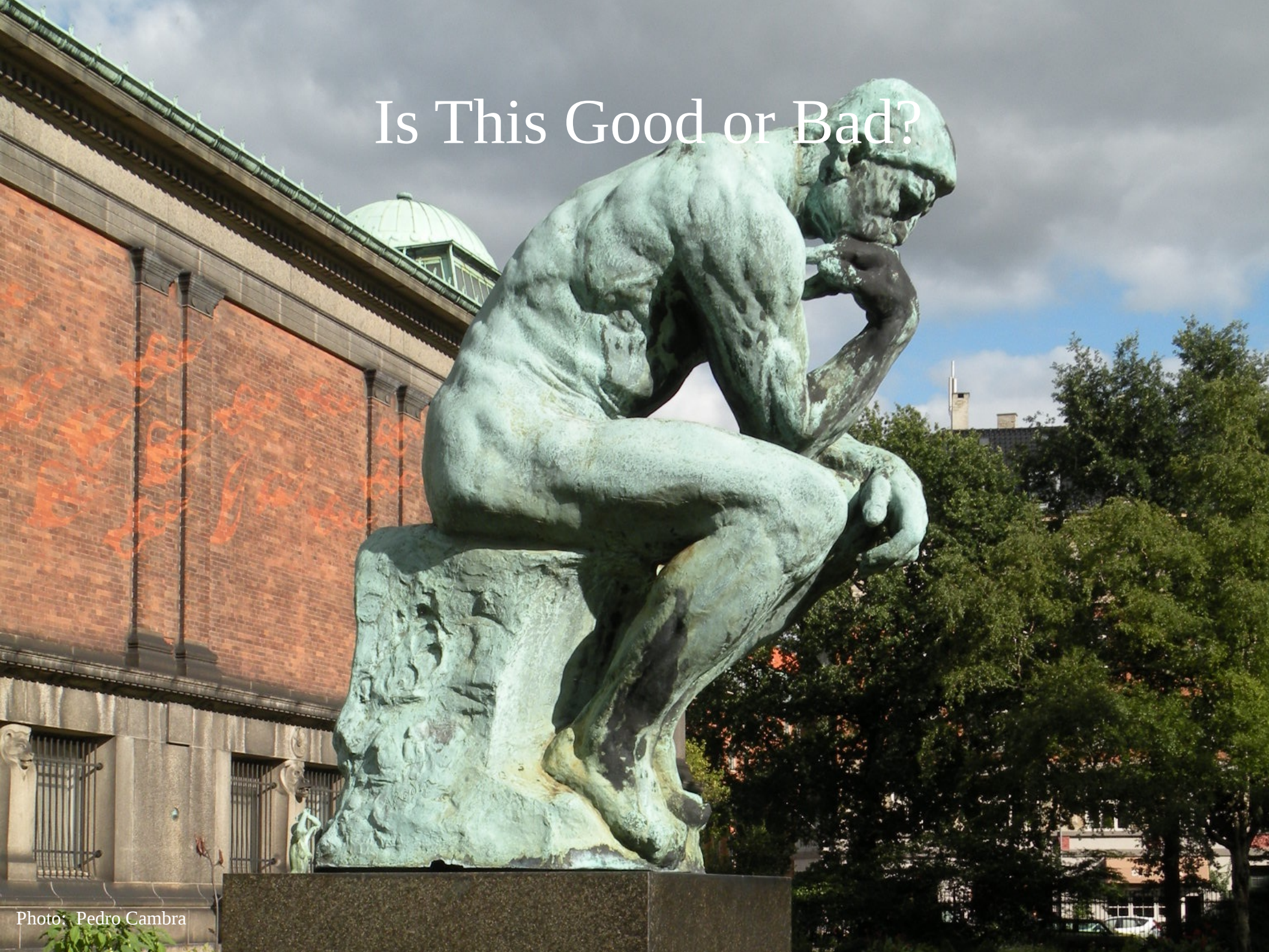


An Example of How Technology Changes Our Understanding of the Christian Life

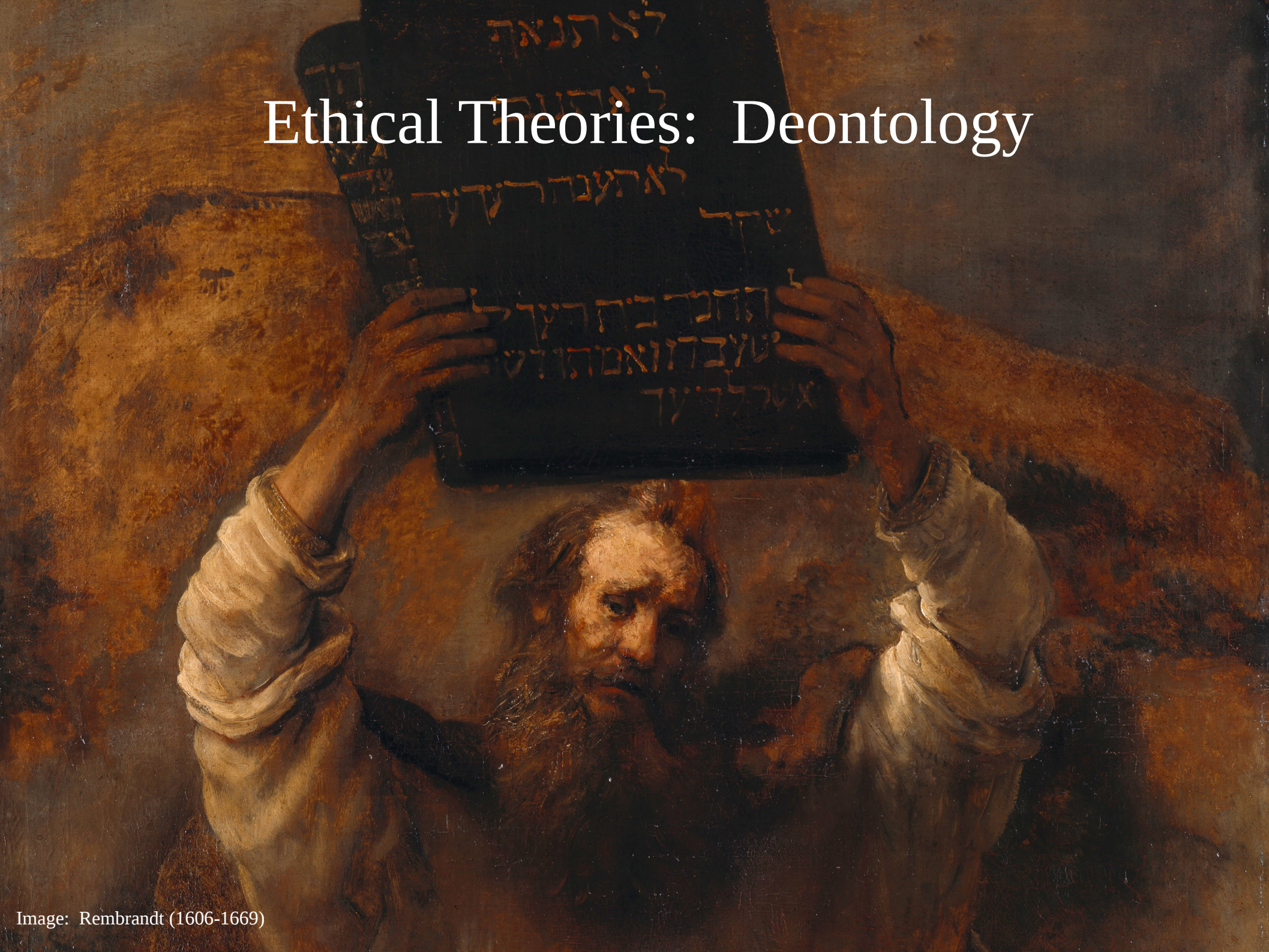
- One area: What does it mean to love others?
- Make a table that looks like the one on the next slide.
- With your neighbor, fill in columns 2 and 3. Leave the last column blank for now.
- Here's one example using texting (your group has to come up with another texting one for the table):
 - Change in abilities: Communicate remotely in short messages.
 - Love means/is: Concise, terse. Less related to physical proximity.

Technology	How it changes our abilities and/or our environment	Effect on what we think love means or is	
Texting			
Digital photography			
Facebook			

Is This Good or Bad?



Ethical Theories: Deontology



Ethical Theories: Consequentialism



Ethical Theories: Virtue Ethics



Is This Good or Bad?

- Title the last column of your table, “Evaluate.”
- With your neighbor, fill-in that column and in each cell, answer for at least two of the three ethical theories what would someone conclude about whether that discipline is good or bad:
 - Deontology
 - Consequentialism
 - Virtue Ethics

An aerial photograph of a mountain lake, viewed from directly above. The lake is surrounded by steep, forested mountains. In the center of the lake, there is a large, perfectly circular opening that reveals a bright, clear blue sky. The water in the lake is a deep blue, and the surrounding mountains are covered in dense green forests. The overall scene is a striking contrast between the dark blue of the water and the bright blue of the sky.

Now What?

Now What?

- Do this analysis with other aspects of the Christian life. For instance, how does technology change our understanding of:
 - What it means to be human?
 - Silence? Contemplation? Prayer?
 - What does a relationship with God look like?
- How do we respond to discipline (not mutually exclusive)?:
 - Acquiesce
 - Resist
 - Resent
 - Learn
- How will you respond? How should you respond?

A shameless commercial . . .

“Technology as Discipline,” *God and Nature Magazine*, Fall 2015:

<http://tinyurl.com/gan-lin>

The Nature of Environmental Stewardship
(Pickwick Publications, 2016):

<http://nature.johnny-lin.com>



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