Google     Media     God

# Media

- "Media are not only devices of information; they are also agencies of order."
- "Media, I will argue, are vessels and environments, containers of possibility that anchor our existence and make what we are doing possible."
- "Media are civilizational ordering devices."

# Google

- "Google, in contrast [to "mass media"], does not produce programs as such but provides organizational services such as search, mail, maps, document storage, calendars, translation, and reference, along with a whole host of curious side projects, and it does so around the clock and on a personalized basis." (325)

# Robert Orsi's Definition of "Lived Religion"

- "religious practice and imagination in ongoing, dynamic relation with the realities and structures of everyday life in particular times and places"
- "The study of lived religion explores how religion is shaped by and shapes the ways family life is organized, for instance:  how the dead are buried, children disciplined, the past and future imagined, moral boundaries established and challenged, homes constructed, maintained, and destroyed, the gods and spirits worshiped and importuned, and so on."

# Religious Media

- "'Religious media' is not an oxymoron; indeed, they may ultimately be the only kind of media there are.  Scrolls and Bibles, holidays and calendars, clocks and bells, astrolabes and sundials, sacraments and rites, prayer wheels and divining rods, towers and temples, ram's horns and organs, stained glass and incense, choirs and diaries, relics and places of pilgrimage, robes and veils are among the media that make religious practice and experience possible." (324)

# Google as Religious Medium?

- "Google guides your life.  It connects people - from the awkward beginnings of groping for a common language through media, such as telephone and airplane, to the sacral media of bells and church, and then to the homey assembling of a crib." (339)

# The Official Church of Google

http://www.thechurchofgoogle.org/

Questions:

- Is this a "religion"?
- How might we relate this to Chun's ideas about control-freedom?
- What gaps in logic can you identify?

# Peters' Technological Determinism

https://vimeo.com/25591045