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Ethics Paper – Digital Revolution and Its Effects on Society

Digital revolution is an ever evolving and vastly encapsulating thing. Everything in the world that was once analog or nothing at all is now becoming a digital masterpiece that you cannot live without. For example, while you used to be able to enjoy a vacation to Walt Disney World by just showing up with your wallet, that is not enough anymore. Now, Walt Disney World is using a digital system that allows the vacationer to digitally store payment methods, entrance tickets, hotel room access, and other things all in the comfort of a RFID embedded wristband. This is just one example of how the digital world is taking over in every aspect of human life and not just the necessary ones.

There are many scholars who feel as though the digital revolution is a good thing and should be kept around. The Research Team at Digital Content Next have said that in their studies of other articles and studies done on the subject, they found among other good qualities that everything being digital is a cheap alternative and cost saving measure compared to what could waste many physical resources in the process (DNC Research Team). Also, everything being digital allows for an easier connectivity between multiple parties involved in the process. This has its own positive connotation, allowing for projects to be completed at a much faster pace since we do not have to wait on any physical process to share our progress with our peers.

However, where there is the positive, there is usually the negative, which means there are also some people out there who feel that the digital revolution is a negative thing and should be slowed, if not halted all together. Marilee Sprenger published an article talking about how the digital revolution is having a negative impact on the health of the human body, with digital devices not only causing physical weakness, such as eye strain and lazy tendencies, but also mental health problems such as ADD and increased social stress, due to hyper-connectedness. (Sprenger)

The negative effects from social media alone is making headlines in the real world as studies are showing that social media sites like Facebook are leading to physical and emotional, as well as financial issues within a person (Abrams). Psychology Today founded a study that showed that Facebook was constantly making people feel envious of others as they would see their peers post something on Facebook that they liked or wanted. Then, through the use of specifically marketed advertisements from online marketing algorithms, people were then seeing ads targeted at them based on what they were seeing form their friends. They would then be coaxed into these advertisements and purchase whatever product was being showed to them at the time.

Through all of these findings, however, the Word of God gives us hope towards how to avoid these things. In the case of social media envy, you can simply look at the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and see that the last covenant specifically deals with “not coveting your neighbor’s house,” which can be easily changed to say that you should not covet your neighbors stuff, including the new computer he or she bought and posted to social media. Even more so, the New Testament even shows Jesus breathing wisdom into his followers at the time by stating that “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). If we are so caught up with having the newest digital device or with what everybody is posting to social media, we are going to be distracted with what truly matters, which is our good will to everyone around us.

In conclusion, it is plain to see that the digital revolution is a thing that can be easily enjoyed or can become easily aggravating. However, no matter what you see inside of the digital revolution and what it has to offer, really, there is no specific view point that can be put on the topic. This is one of those topics that you have to find your own answer for, as Proverbs says, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). It is an internal heart issue that can only be decided for yourself. You have to look at the facts and then look at your personal state and decide whether or not you believe that the digital age is right for you.

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