

# Tech-Getherness?



STEPHEN WAGNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE

CHRISTMAS 2013

*“Let Christ himself be your example as to what your attitude should be.  
For he, who had always been God by nature, did not cling to his prerogatives as God’s equal,  
but stripped himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man.”  
Phil. 2:5-7 (Phillips)*

Dear Friend,

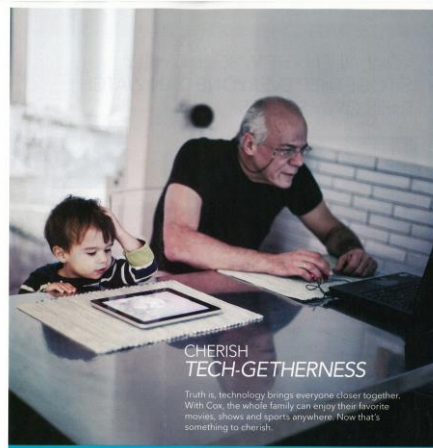
Tech-Getherness? Imagine the Tech-Carnation. The angels announce the amazing visitation to the shepherds. The Messiah is here. The shepherds come running. They find the stable, the feeding trough, Mary, Joseph, and...and a 96-inch flat screen monitor with a YouTube video playing. Oooh’s and Ahhh’s ooze from the gathered crowd. Somebody says that one man on the screen conversing dramatically with his back turned to the camera is the Messiah. The camera zooms in for a close up so that a tear on his cheek is visible beneath an understanding eye.

Why didn’t Jesus come as a YouTube video clip? Couldn’t our 21<sup>st</sup> century technological marvels have helped spread the news of his coming more efficiently? According to my local cable provider, the computer

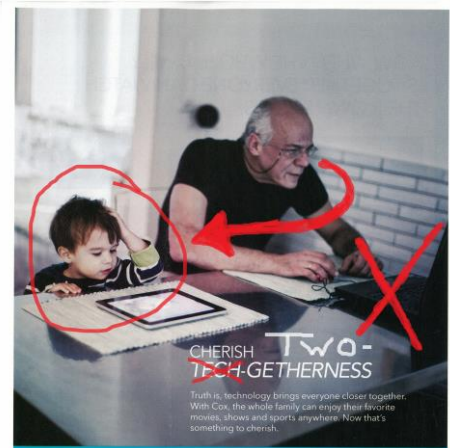
devices which once seemed like a distraction are actually tools for securing relationship. One ad reads “Cherish Tech-Getherness” and shows a grandfather and grandson sitting side by side with a laptop and iPad enjoying some “quality” time.

Imagine that Christ had taken the same approach and decided it was “good enough” to come in the form of a

video image on your favorite device. Or, imagine he had used the apology we sometimes use for our distracted countenance: it’s the “best I can do” to be half here and half-hearing.



Original Advertisement



Ah. That’s better.

How priceless a gift that Christ instead gave everything of Himself, both in setting aside His privileges to take on a human nature and in giving Himself on the cross to redeem us (see Phil. 2:3-11, esp. 7). His was no *tech-carnation*. No half-hearted, half-connected version of love. There’s a reason Jesus came in the flesh.

I pray that in the coming year God will help me to be like His Son at least in this regard: tune out YouTube and every other “tech-gether” opportunity and tune in – in to the people in my neighborhood and on campus who need to see Christ in their midst. I trust Christ will take my willingness and use it to draw some to Himself. Will you join me?

Merry Christmas,

Stephen

Stephen Wagner



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