

## Comparing Christians to Computers

### Int.

1. Aim: To show some things about Christians that are comparable to computers.
2. The Bible compares people to many things:
  - a. Trees - Ps. 1:3 - like a tree planted by rivers of water
  - b. Jer. 17:8 "For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."
  - c. Sheep and goats - Mt. 25:32 & 33
  - d. Snakes - Mt. 23:33 "[Ye] serpents, [ye] generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Lk 3:7
  - e. Luke 13:32 "Fox" - Jesus called Herod by the name fox
3. In this lesson we will compare people to a computer.

### Discussion

#### I. THE COMPUTER HAD A DESIGNER AND MAKER! Heb. 3:4

- A. The computer can never be greater than its maker.
  1. It did not just happen
  2. Many people have been involved in creating and designing the computer and the software to make them work.
- B. Man had a creator
  1. We did not just happen -- Heb. 3:4 "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God."

2. God is our creator -

a. Gen. 1:1

b. Psa. 139:14 "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

C. Many do not believe Genesis chapters 1 and 2.

1. There are teachers and professors who claim to be religious and belong to some church, who do not believe the Genesis account of creation.
2. Some of the schools operated by members of the church of Christ have professors that teach some form of evolution. [Abilene]
3. They believe in what they call progressive creationism.
4. There are members who do not believe the Genesis account. - but teach theories that are compatible with evolution. Theistic Evolution!!

D. But these people know that all computers had a designer and creator. A computer could have come into existence by itself just as easy as we could have just appeared on this earth that just appeared. Heb. 3:4 "For every house [COMPUTER] is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God."

## **II. A COMPUTER MUST BE PURCHASED WITH A PRICE!**

A. Computers are not free

1. The cost has come down over the years - But they do not give them away
2. An un-purchased computer is worthless.
3. The computer can never realize its potential until purchased and put into service.

## B. Christians have been purchased

1. Acts 20:28 - the church was purchased with the blood of Christ "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
2. We as Christians make up the church
3. The precious blood of Christ was used to redeem us:
  - a. 1 Pet. 1:18-20 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19. But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20. Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"
  - b. Eph. 2:13 & 16 "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." EPH 2:16. "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"
4. But we are worthless unless we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. We can never realize our potential until we become a Christian.

### **III. THE COMPUTER COMES WITH A MANUAL FOR PROPER OPERATION WHICH IS PROVIDED BY ITS MAKER!**

- A. The computer must receive instructions [commands] from without.
  1. It must be programmed before it will work
  2. There is an operating system - Windows, XP, Apple

3. Then the software which we use to produce the work must be loaded into the computer
  - a. Word Processing
  - b. Accounting
  - c. Various kinds of software
4. To use these computers we must learn how they work - that is the purpose of the manuals. Now many of the manuals are built into the computer.
5. All responses by the computer are made based on the information put into it.

B. Man must have instructions to know how to live

1. Jer. 10:23 - "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
2. Prov. 20:24 "Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?"
3. Heb. 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"
4. The Bible is our software that is used to program our lives
  - a. Mankind is born with a blank conscience and no memory.
  - b. Ps. 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
  - c. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

5. We must read and study this book
  - a. 2 Tim. 2:15 - This is our manual for living
  - b. It is user friendly - written in simple language so that we can understand and obey it!
  - c. Does not need updating - Jude 3

#### **IV. A COMPUTER CAN CORRECT ITS MISTAKES; BUT, IT REQUIRES OUTSIDE HELP.**

- A. Sometimes there are errors programmed into a computer
  1. It is necessary for someone to correct it
  2. Sometimes a hard drive will crash
  3. It is sometimes difficult to get a mistake corrected that is made on a computer.
- B. Sometimes Christians make mistakes
  1. When church members continue in a mistake [sin], faithful members are to help them correct it.
  2. Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."
  3. Some church members are hard to correct when they make a mistake.
    - a. You cannot reason with them
    - b. Stubborn / hard headed
    - c. But when we understand we can correct our mistakes.
    - d. God is faithful and just to forgive.

## **V. ONE COMPUTER MAY AFFECT AND INFLUENCE ANOTHER COMPUTER!**

### A. Internet is an example

1. WWW is a series of computers linked to one another
  - a. What is on one computer can influence or exchange information with any other computer in the world - via the internet
  - b. Wonderful and great way to spread the word
  - c. Can and is being used to spread evil and sin
2. Also something called a "Virus" is spread from one computer to another.
  - a. These computers with a "virus" will ruin good programs.
  - b. Many computers working together, and following the same instruction book, can accomplish much good; but, one "evil" computer can destroy all the good the others have accomplished.

### B. Christians effect and influence others

1. We are to be an example - 1 Tim. 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
2. Mt. 5:13-16 -Salt / light "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

3. We can be a good influence
4. Or we can be a bad influence - 1 Cor. 15:33

C. This is due to the one who controls it.

1. Rom. 6:16; "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
2. Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
3. Mat 12:30 "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

D. Paul wrote that a little leaven can leaven the whole loaf.

1. 1 Cor. 5:6 "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"
2. "One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel."
3. One member, or one clique in a congregation, can cause much harm in the local congregation if they have their own agenda, and push it.
4. Nearly all congregations have cliques; but, they need not be working against the purpose of the congregation.

## **VI. COMPUTERS MAY TAKE IN AND STORE MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE USED OVER AND OVER AGAIN!**

- A. A computer can repeat and do the same thing over and over
1. Store information - use it again
  2. Example - addresses for bulletin - make changes, update
  3. The computer needs to be programmed with useful information.
- B. Christians can store useful information and use it over and over
1. 2 Tim. 2:2, 15-16; "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."
  2. 2 Tim. 3:14-15 - from a child "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
  3. We must be very concerned what our children learn, as well as our adults.
    - a. Tit. 2:1 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"
    - b. Ecc. 11:9-12:1
    - c. Lam.3:25-27 "The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. 26. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. 27. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."

C. We have the great commission

1. Mk 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
2. We have been saved by the gospel - we are to then to tell others about the gospel and how they can be saved.
3. This information can be used over and over again.
4. Song "I love to Tell the Story"

## **CONCLUSION**

1. While there are some similarities between people and computers, it is the differences which are REALLY important.
2. Notice these differences:
  - a. [1.] Man was made after a model, spiritually speaking. Gen. 1:26; 2:7 Man is the only thing in creation which had a model. The computer had no model.
  - b. [2.] Mankind has intelligence. [The ability to reason and make judgments based on experience] Computers have no native intelligence. They cannot make decisions except what is based on information already fed into them.
  - c. [3.] Man has a conscience. - The computer does not have any feeling about right and wrong.
  - d. [4.] Man can sin - Computers do not sin. God gave rules to men and when men violate these rules they are called sin! God did not give rules for computers.

- e. [5.] Man has the capacity to love. Love is not something that a machine like a computer can give or receive. Man is the object of God's love. We love Him because he first loved us. Jn. 3:16
- f. [6.] Mankind is capable of worshiping his Creator. A computer cannot give worship to its maker.
- g. [7.] Man has a soul which is eternity bound; the computer is bound for the scrap heap.
- h. [8.] Man can have faith, repent, confess, and be baptized for the remission of their sins.

3. There are some similarities between man and computers but there are also many differences.