



The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives

The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship for Families

Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives and using these gifts responsibly, in love and justice toward ourselves as well as toward others. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept which identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God. One of these areas is the Gardens of Technology and the Mind.

GARDENS OF TECHNOLOGY & THE MIND

We are created in the image of God. Our minds are extraordinary gifts that allow us to have fellowship with our Creator. We know from scripture that God has called us to have a spirit of 'love, power and a sound mind.' We should always be learning, questioning, and thirsting for knowledge, in both our spiritual and temporal worlds. When used responsibly, technology can be very useful toward this purpose.

For Adults

Do you think of technology as a gift from God, to use for learning and expanding your mind? Consider your use of the internet, television, digital cameras, modern transportation and communication, and all manner of machines. We have much to be grateful for with the technologies of modern life. Consider ways you can use technology to bless others and to help you live your life according to the will of God.

For Children

You can learn a lot from surfing the net or even watching television and playing some video games. But not everything on the internet, TV or video games is good. Part of becoming mature is learning to recognize the difference between using your time wisely and doing things that are a waste of time, or even harmful. It's smarter to use technology in ways that do you good. Rather than focusing only on entertainment, use your mind for a variety of activities that require thinking. Think of it as being the master of technology, instead of technology being the master of you!

Families Together

For younger children, explain the benefits and dangers of technology when you set parental controls. For older children, consider discussing your reasoning for TV guidelines or internet controls and listen to their input, as well. You may be surprised by what you learn. If there is disagreement over a popular TV show, consider watching a partial episode with them in order to point out why it is objectionable. Regarding films, helpful Catholic rating sources are available. *The Catholic Northwest Progress* newspaper and the USCCB website are informative and useful in their reviews of all types of films.