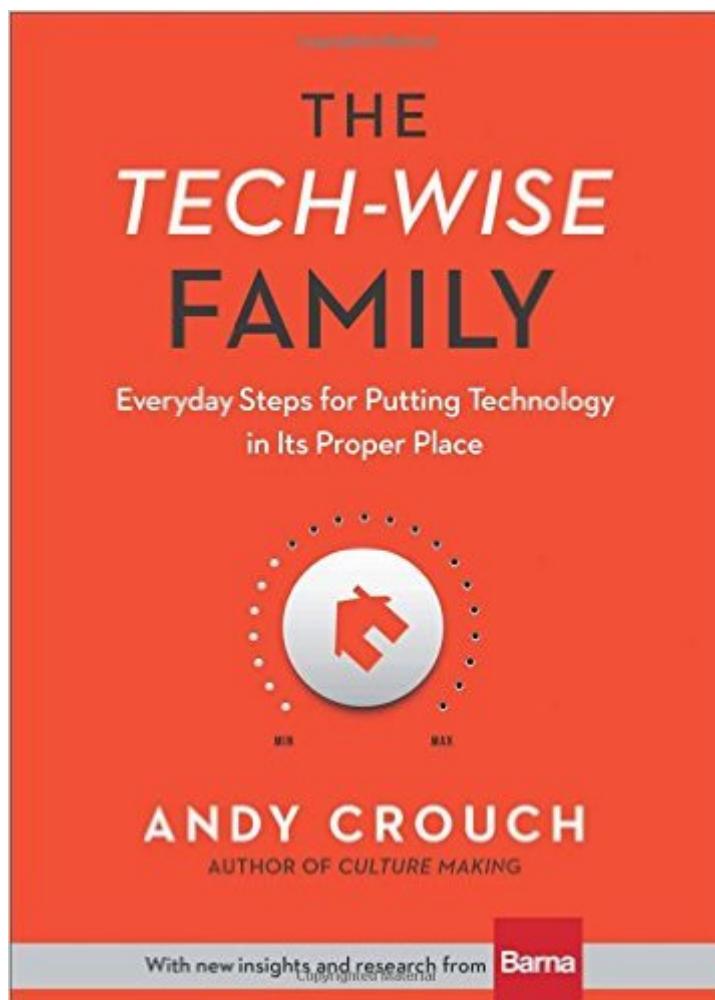


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# The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps For Putting Technology In Its Proper Place



## **Synopsis**

Making conscientious choices about technology in our families is more than just using internet filters and determining screen time limits for our children. It's about developing wisdom, character, and courage in the way we use digital media rather than accepting technology's promises of ease, instant gratification, and the world's knowledge at our fingertips. And it's definitely not just about the kids. Drawing on in-depth original research from the Barna Group, Andy Crouch shows readers that the choices we make about technology have consequences we may never have considered. He takes readers beyond the typical questions of what, where, and when and instead challenges them to answer provocative questions like, Who do we want to be as a family? and How does our use of a particular technology move us closer or farther away from that goal? Anyone who has felt their family relationships suffer or their time slip away amid technology's distractions will find in this book a path forward to reclaiming their real life in a world of devices.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Reclaiming real life in a world of devices Making good choices about technology in our families is more than just using internet filters and determining screen-time limits for our children. It's about building character, wisdom, and courage rather than accepting technology's promises of ease and instant gratification. It's about developing our heart, mind, soul, and strength when we're tempted to settle for entertainment and consumer satisfaction. And it's definitely not just about the kids. Alongside in-depth original research from Barna Group that shows how families are wrestling with technology's new realities, Andy Crouch takes parents beyond the typical questions of what,

where, and when to show us that in a world full of devices, there's a way to choose a better life than we've imagined. "If you aren't sure how to put technology in its 'proper place' in your home, Andy will guide you and challenge your thinking."--Mark Batterson, New York Times best-selling author of *The Circle Maker*; lead pastor, National Community Church"A vision for family life and faith and character so compelling and inspiring that it made me weep, made me reconsider many aspects of our home, made me profoundly thankful for this beautiful and important book."--Shauna Niequist, New York Times best-selling author of *Present over Perfect* and *Bread & Wine*"Andy's message and model have strengthened our commitment to use technology to unite--and not divide--our family."--Kara Powell, executive director, Fuller Youth Institute; coauthor of *Growing Young*Andy Crouch--author, speaker, musician, and dad--has shaped the way our generation sees culture, creativity, and the gospel. In addition to his books *Culture Making*, *Playing God*, and *Strong and Weak*, his work has been featured in *Time*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and Lecrae's 2014 single "Non-Fiction." He was executive editor of *Christianity Today* from 2012 to 2016 and is now senior strategist for communication at the John Templeton Foundation. He lives with his family in Pennsylvania.

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Andy Crouch has provided a fantastic book that challenges while encouraging, that explores deep truths along with practical reality. As the father of a 3 month old, I am grateful already for how this has already begun to shape both my family and personal life. So much of what Andy addresses is true for anyone in our tech-driven culture, plus the writing style makes for such a delightful read, that I would recommend the book to pretty much any family. Or anyone who likes families. Or anyone with a smartphone.

Oh my goodness! This book was so, so good. I myself recognize my own addictions to technology, and so as a new parent I don't want to be passive in how we use technology in our family (or how technology uses us). I accidentally stumbled upon this book and I am so glad I did. It gives great

principles and offers excellent advice on how to be intentional about technology in the home. Highly recommended!

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, teen, or single adult--this resource is invaluable for taking intentional control of our electronic devices. It's an easy read filled with valuable insights and though it's family related--a single adult person of any age can use its wisdom to speak with people they care about. Considering the highly addictive nature of electronic devices, a child's future might depend on it.

I was interested to read this because of the emphasis technology has on our society (I'm typing this on my phone !) and the unique challenges we face in raising a family in a very "connected" world. Andy Crouch wrote a very insightful book and I enjoyed reading about how he and his wife raised his children. It gave me a lot of things to think about in regards to why and how we use technology, and while we won't be getting rid of our TV, It's helped me be more intentional about how/why we use our devices. I can see how it can be read as a "look at our radical family practices and copy them," but he keeps it very realistic by admitting to "Crouch Family Realities" and gives us an honest look into the never ending pursuit of "balance" with our technology. Also, if you get a chance to listen to him on a podcast or read an interview with him (I heard him on the Phil Vischer podcast), you really get a sense of his heart and purpose behind writing this book.

Well written and wise, this book landed at just the right time for our family. Crouch writes with strong opinion and conviction, but leaves room for differing opinions in the execution. As a pastor with an expense account, I am familiar with the dance writers like Crouch have to do - the reader of a Christian book on an ethical topic both wants application and loves to shoot holes in the application immediately. The TW Family counters my temptation to critique in two ways: by focusing on wisdom (and courage) as the goal, rather than behavior, and the short section at the end of each chapter confessing how well the Crouch family did on the chapter's commitment. Well done.

In the Tech-Wise Family, Andy Crouch provides a wise and practical guide for families struggling to navigate an increasingly digital age. As a digital native (who considers himself a "digital refugee" at this point) and soon-to-be-dad, this is the book I was looking for everywhere. In the book, he unpacks ten commitments for tech-wise families: 1. We develop wisdom and courage together as a family. 2. We want to create more than we consume. So we fill the center of our home with things

that reward skill and active engagement.3. We are designed for a rhythm of work and rest. So one hour a day, one day a week, and one week a year, we turn off our devices and worship, feast, play, and rest together.4. We wake up before our devices do, and they "go to bed" before we do.5. We aim for "no screens before double digits" at school and at home.6. We use screens for a purpose, and we use them together, rather than using them aimlessly and alone.7. Car time is conversation time.8. Spouses have one another's passwords, and parents have total access to children's devices.9. We learn to sing together, rather than letting recorded and amplified music take over our lives and worship.10. We show up for the big events of life. We learn how to be human by being fully present at our moments of greatest vulnerability. We hope to die in one another's arms. After each chapter, Crouch gives a "reality check" in which he explains how this *\*actually\** looked in his family. By doing this, he helps readers learn to walk in the tension between establishing good rules and promoting legalism. He is not just writing ideas that have never been tried but things that he and his wife have actually practiced over the past twenty years with their own children. Living according to the commitments Crouch outlines in this book will painful, difficult, challenging, and make us seem a little weird (given the popularity of Rod Dreher's *The Benedict Option*, maybe that's not a bad thing). But, like many things that are painful and challenging, the reward is so much better than anything we had to give up. I read about digital technology and its effects nearly everyday. This is the book that I've been waiting for. As a pastor, I plan to use this book as a basis for parenting workshops in the years to come.

This book is super engaging and easy to read. The statistics really help open up to the realities of technology in the home. I love how the author refers to his family ways as "almost, almost amish" because it seems so radical to people nowadays to limit our kids' technology exposure. As I become a bigger advocate for less tech time in the home every day, I am recommending this book to every parent out there that needs the extra encouragement. This is a great place to start taking back your family time! We have a limited amount of time with our young kids at home. Let's teach them to be wise and courageous.

Excellent book- and an easy read. My husband and I are trying many of the "commitments" laid out in this book.

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