

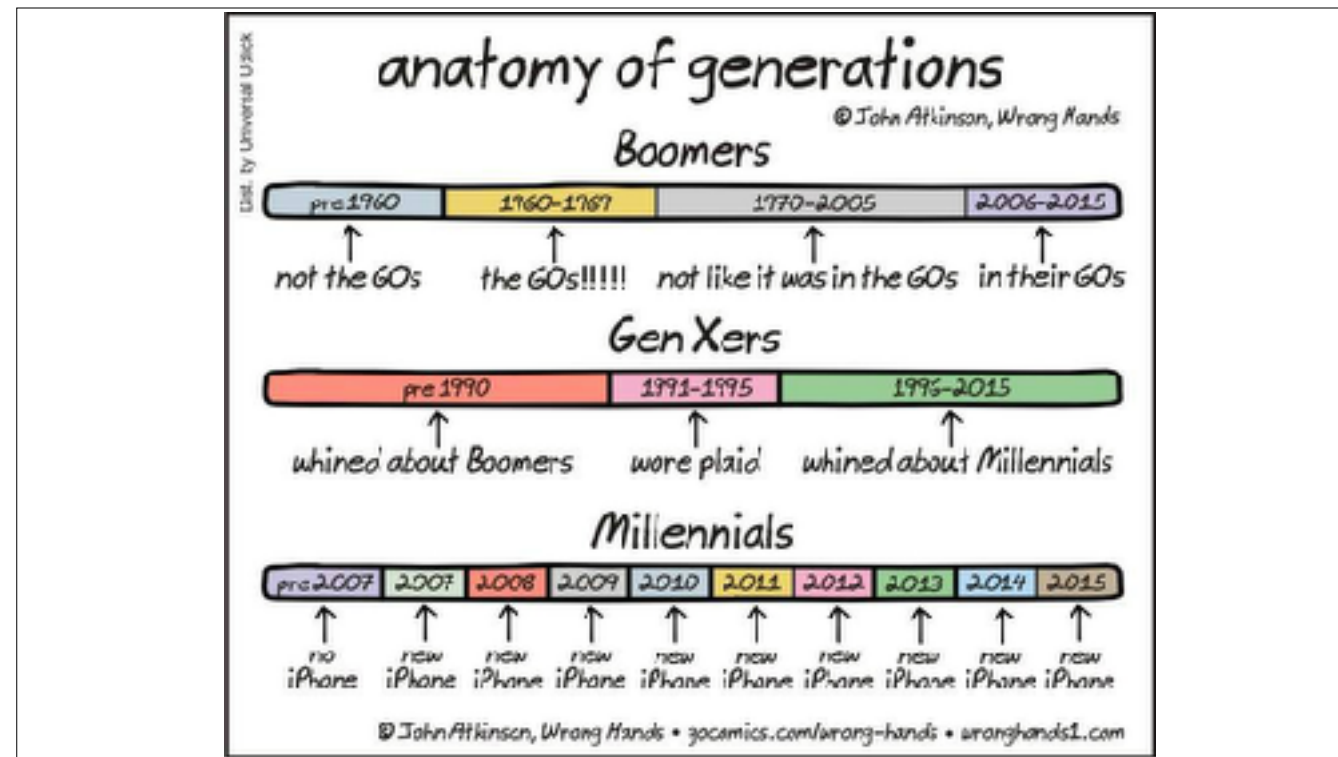
technology

God's word is fully adequate and fully sufficient to provide us with everything we need to look at the world around us and make wise and biblical decisions about how we are to live.

The Spectrum of Technological Embrace:
Early Adopter to Tech Curmudgeon

a note on generations

Each generation engages with technology in a different way based on how they developed as a human being. There are significant generational differences because there are significant cultural differences from generation to generation.



Generation Z, or iY or Centennials are Digital Natives - Born after 1996.

Centennials are the only real **digital natives**. The rest of us are **digital immigrants**.



St. Peters Square in 2005 for Pope Benedict's Installment and in 2013 with Pope Francis' Installment.

What happened between these two events? June 29, 2007



The iPhone is introduced.

Time named the iPhone the single most influential gadget of all time in 2016, saying that it “fundamentally changed our relationship to computing and information— a change likely to have repercussions for decades to come.”



Generational Test: You might be a digital native if you have no idea what this is and it really creeps you out.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the
Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe
all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you
always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Philippians 4:8 (NASB)

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NASB)

Technology Defined

“Anything humanly created that allows us to reach beyond what we are capable of without it.”

Technology pushes us forward. It could be doing something totally new or simply doing something we have already been doing more efficiently.

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:27-28 (NASB)

God is a creator! He creates man in his image and gives him that same creative spark.

They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

Genesis 11:4 (NASB)

Technology, produced by fallen men in a fallen world, has the tendency to be an expression of human pride.

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

Genesis 3:17 (NASB)

Things are not right. We are not right. The world is not right. The things we create in order to help us master the creation are trying to master us.

@CHALLIES

“Technology is largely a good thing, I’m sure. I’m convinced that part of our mandate for this world includes creating and enjoying new kinds of technology. But while these technological advancements can certainly do a lot to make life easier and better, they also have a way of making life more complicated. They extend our work days and worm their way into our leisure, at least if we allow them to.”

Tim Challies

SOURCE: <https://www.challies.com/articles/the-tyranny-of-technology>

The Nature of Technology

Technology is amoral. It is neither right nor wrong. It is not overwhelming good or inherently evil. But it is deeply affected by the Fall.

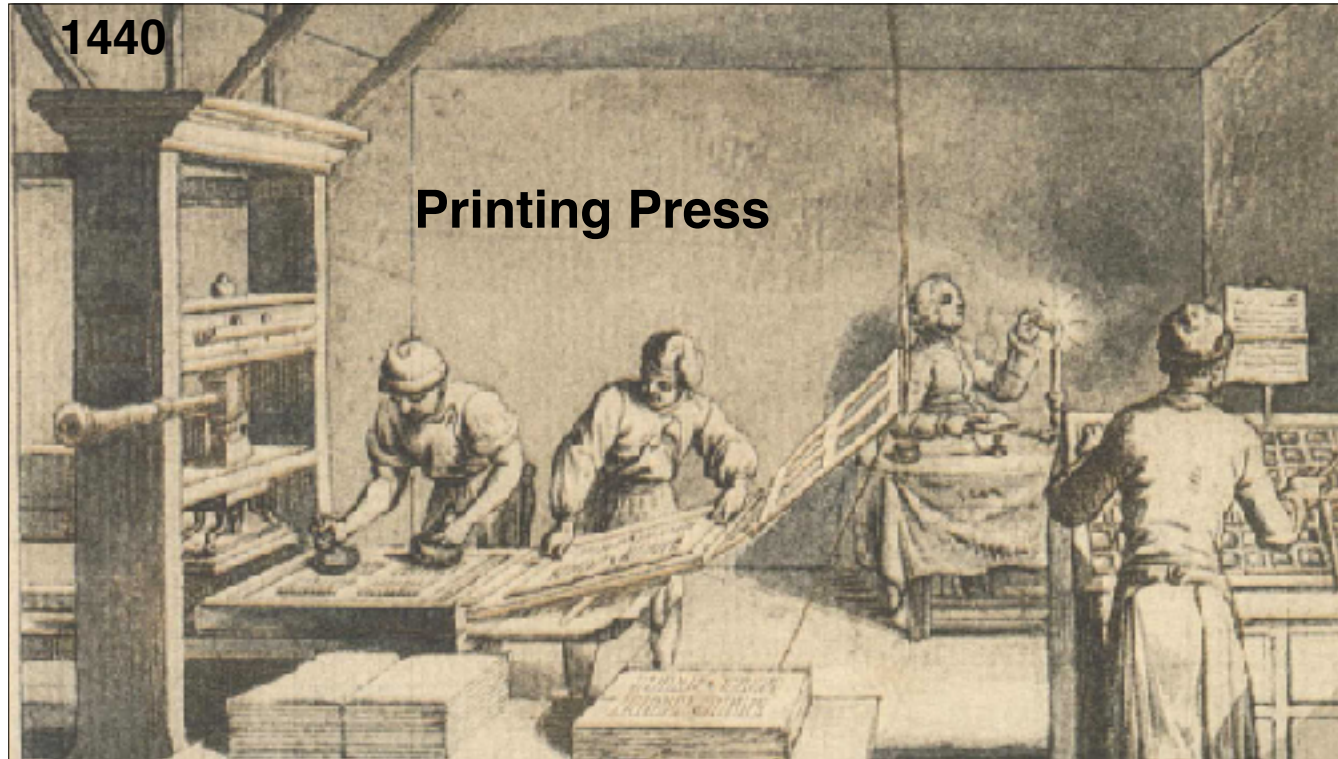
“Technology presents us with a unique spiritual challenge. Because it is meant to serve us in fulfilling our created purpose, because it makes our lives easier, longer, and more comfortable, we are prone to assign to it something of a godlike status. We easily rely on technology to give our lives meaning, and we trust technology to provide an ultimate answer to the frustration of life in a fallen world. Because of this, technology is uniquely susceptible to becoming an idol, raising itself to the place of God in our lives.”

Tim Challies, The Next Story



1440

Printing Press



Johannes Gutenberg

1844

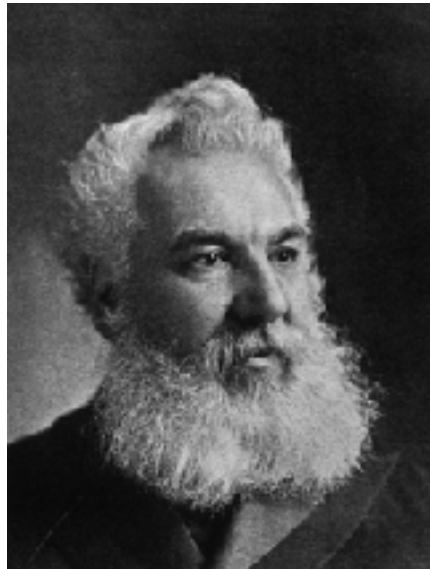


Telegraph

“What hath God wrought!”



1876



Telephone

"Mr. Watson, come here, I
want to see you."



Alexander Graham Bell

1954

Transistor Radio



Their pocket size sparked a change in popular music listening habits, allowing people to listen to music anywhere they went.

“The transistor radio made music portable. No longer was listening confined to the family’s console radio in the living room. Teenagers could now take their rock’n’roll music with them wherever they went, away from the prying ears of their parents. The transistor radio became a delivery mechanism for the cultural, social, economic, political and sexual revolutions that came with the spread of rock.”

SOURCE: <http://www.scienceofrock.com/importance-of-the-transistor-radio>

1980's



1983



TODAY



For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my
hope is from him.

Psalm 62:5 ESV

The more time we spend distracted, the less time we spend reflecting. God calls us to be contemplative, reflective and still.

Psalm 46:10 ESV

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Psalm 37:7 ESV

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Psalm 62:5 ESV

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

The Christian life by its nature and by necessity is a life of contemplation. Extended periods of undistracted devotion are not just good for the Christian but they are necessary.

The Dangers

Technology Isolates Us

There is a danger of using our devices to get out of an awkward situation, to turn to our device when we feel bored.

“In the twenty-first century, glaringly white Apple ear buds inform all those who observe us in public that we are disinterested, musically inclined, non-threatening people, while Bluetooth Wi-Fi earpieces convey a slightly different, more aggressive message: far too busy, don’t dare disturb,”

Giles Slade

The Big Disconnect: The Story of Technology and Loneliness

“Once again, interaction with a device prevents and is preferable to risky, energy-consuming interactions with strangers. We have been conditioned for over a hundred years to risk interpersonal contact only through the mediation of machines. We trust machines much more than we trust human beings.”

Giles Slade

The Big Disconnect: The Story of Technology and Loneliness

As technology improves, people are replaced by automation. Technological advance draws us apart.

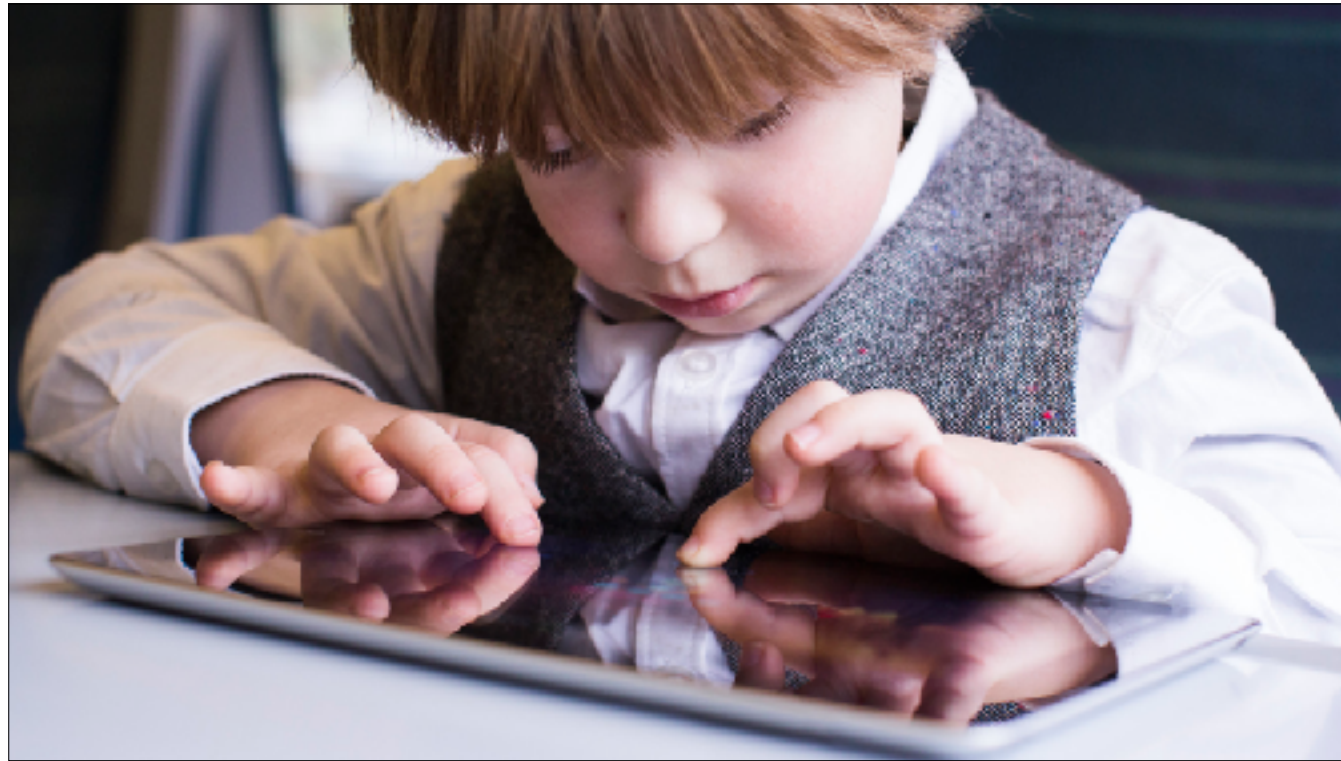
Our communication has
become increasingly mediated.

We are escaping the need to look someone in the eye and give them full attention.



The Results of a Digital Detox

SOURCE: <https://www.fastcompany.com/3049138/what-really-happens-to-your-brain-and-body-during-a-digital-detox>



SOURCE: <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/11/fashion/steve-jobs-apple-was-a-low-tech-parent.html>
The New York Times -Steve Jobs Was a Low-Tech Parent - SEPT. 10, 2014



SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/oct/05/smartphone-addiction-silicon-valley-dystopia>

'Our minds can be hijacked': the tech insiders who fear a smartphone dystopia

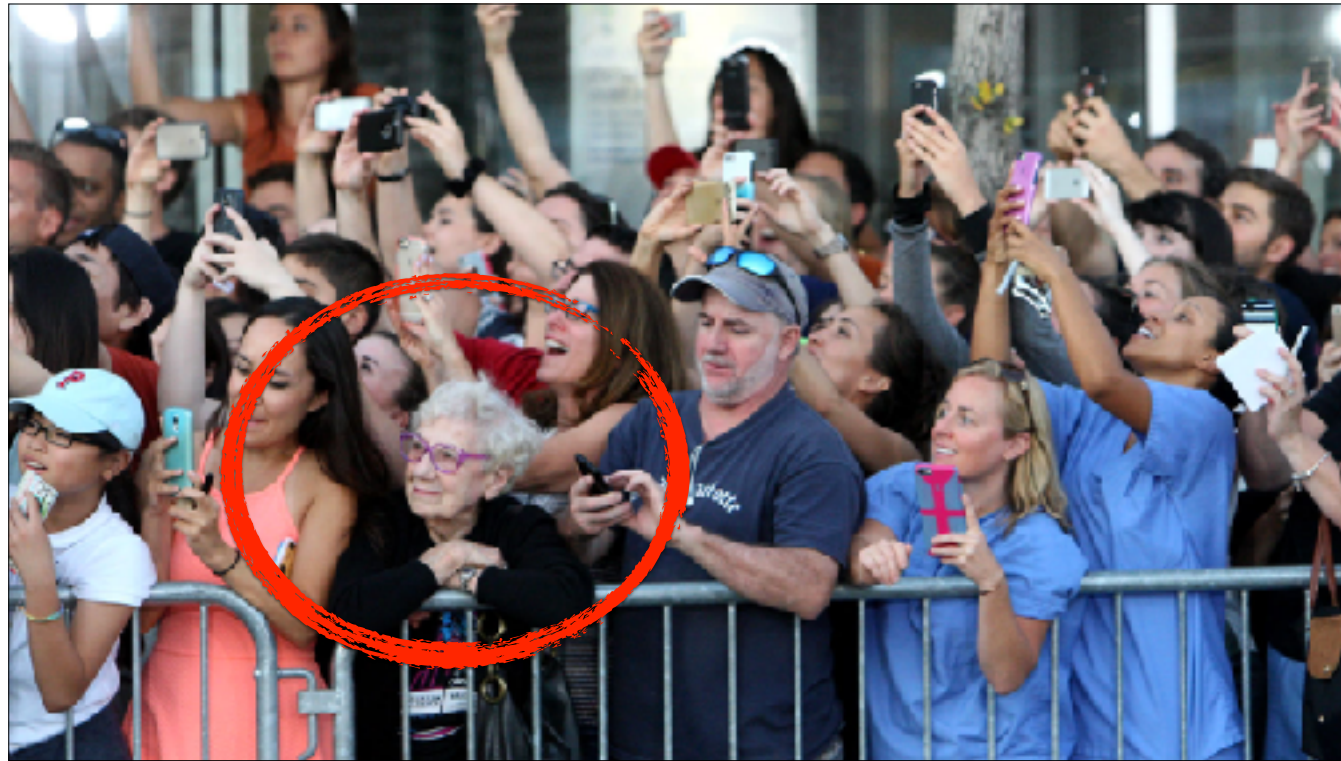
Google, Twitter and Facebook workers who helped make technology so addictive are disconnecting themselves from the internet.
by Paul Lewis in San Francisco

“It is very common for humans to develop things with the best of intentions and for them to have unintended, negative consequences.”

SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/oct/05/smartphone-addiction-silicon-valley-dystopia>



Who is enjoying this moment and who is simply capturing this moment?



Who is enjoying this moment and who is simply capturing this moment?



To portray how significant the physical disconnect has become, photographer Eric Pickersgill has released a series of photos from everyday life with one minor adjustment: all electronic devices have been removed.



To portray how significant the physical disconnect has become, photographer Eric Pickersgill has released a series of photos from everyday life with one minor adjustment: all electronic devices have been removed.

The project, which he has titled *Removed*, was inspired and initiated by an observation he made one morning while sitting in a local café:



“Family sitting next to me at Illium café in Troy, NY is so disconnected from one another. Not much talking. Father and two daughters have their own phones out. Mom doesn’t have one or chooses to leave it put away. She stares out the window, sad and alone in the company of her closest family. Dad looks up every so often to announce some obscure piece of info he found online. Twice he goes on about a large fish that was caught. No one replies. I am saddened by the use of technology for interaction in exchange for not interacting. This has never happened before and I doubt we have scratched the surface of the social impact of this new experience. Mom has her phone out now.”

“I am saddened by the use of technology for interaction in exchange for not interacting. This has never happened before and I doubt we have scratched the surface of the social impact of this new experience.”



We do need to be careful about over dramatizing when it comes to modern technology. There is a heart problem at the core of what we are talking about.

social media

Who are the gatekeepers
of our information & news?

"A squirrel dying in your front yard may be
more relevant to your interests right now
than people dying in Africa."
Mark Zuckerberg

A journalist was asking Mark Zuckerberg a question about the news feed in Facebook. And the journalist was asking him, "Why is this so important?" And Zuckerberg said, "A squirrel dying in your front yard may be more relevant to your interests right now than people dying in Africa."

Social media is a filtered reality.

room



“(social media) becomes a safe and sanitized room where I can watch the ups and downs of others as an anonymous spectator, with no compulsive impulse to respond and care in any meaningful way.”

Tony Reinke *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You*



SOURCE: <https://growingleaders.com/blog/facebook-affects-mental-health/>

Socializing Without Relational Context

Social Media is socializing without relational context. Without personal knowledge of those we are socializing with. We don't see any faces on Facebook. We don't know how anyone is doing beyond what they post.

**BREAKING
NEWS**

The New York Times

Facebook Overhauls News Feed to Focus on What Friends and Family Share

<https://www.wired.com/story/facebooks-adam-mosseri-on-why-youll-see-less-video-more-from-friends/>



iForget

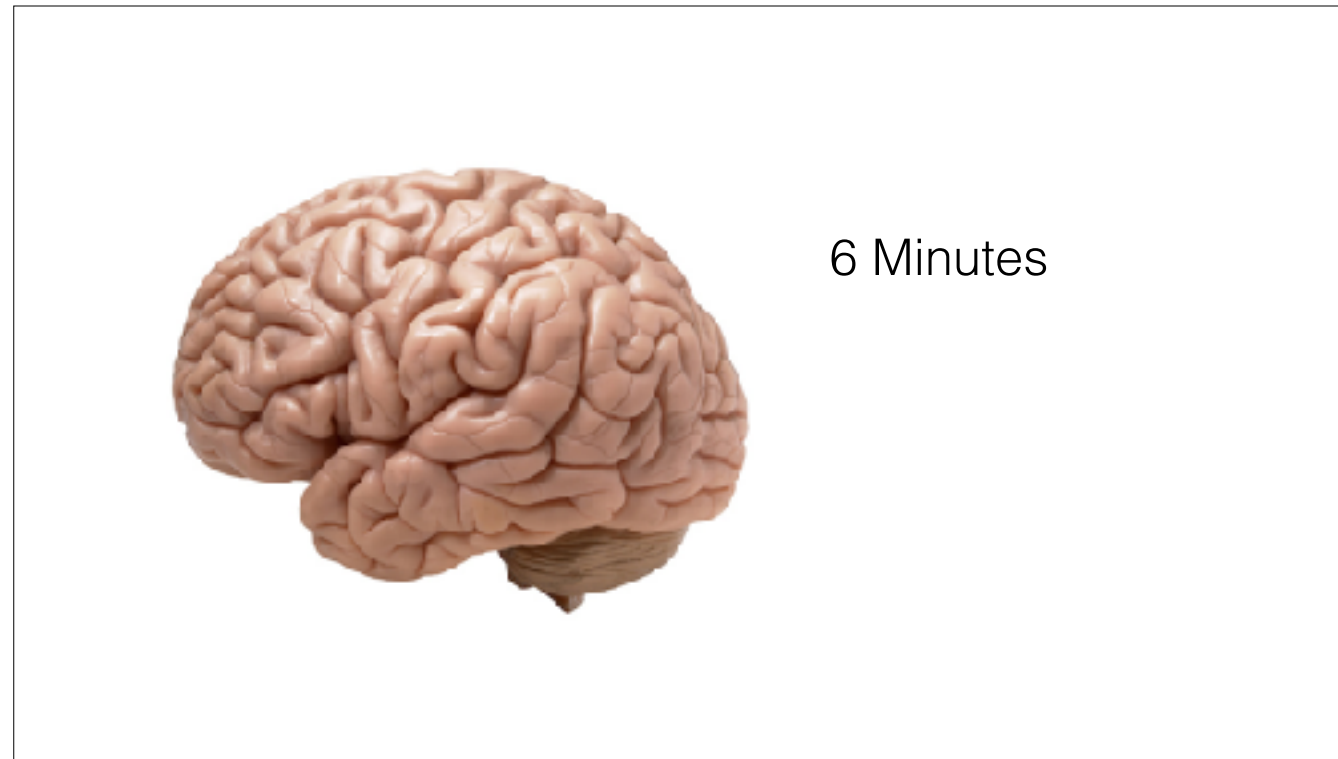
SOURCE: <http://www.covenanteyes.com/2014/10/02/iforget-new-digital-dementia/>



Phubbing: It means snubbing or ignoring those in one's vicinity while interacting with one's smartphone.

SOURCE: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2017/10/13/are-you-phubbing-right-now-what-it-is-and-why-science-says-its-bad-for-your-relationships/?utm_term=.8c98b38541f5

The Washington Post "Are you 'phubbing' right now? What it is and why science says it's bad for your relationships" By Emma Seppälä October 13, 2017



This brings us to the research on “multitasking” done by Adam Gazzaley, M.D., at UC San Francisco School of Medicine.

What he has shown is that our brains require about 6 minutes of undistracted engagement in order to focus deeply on a topic or thought.

It takes this long in a deep interpersonal conversation to be fully engaged. What he has shown is that each time a person is distracted, that 6- minute clock starts over.

From a study at San Diego State University, 20% of college class time is now spent interacting with smartphones.

Observing Students:

1. If the phone is out of site, with prompts turned off, one is fully engaged.
2. If the phone is upside down but still visible, one is partially engaged and open easily to disengagement.
3. If the phone is held face upward or in the palm of your hand, you are completely disengaged.

Remember, Meditating is thinking long on something and takes 5-7 minutes without distractions.



Pornography

SOURCE: <https://www.challies.com/articles/10-ugly-and-updated-numbers-about-pornography-use>

SOURCE: <https://www.dailywire.com/news/24137/walsh-were-nation-porn-addicts-why-are-we-matt-walsh#exit-modal>

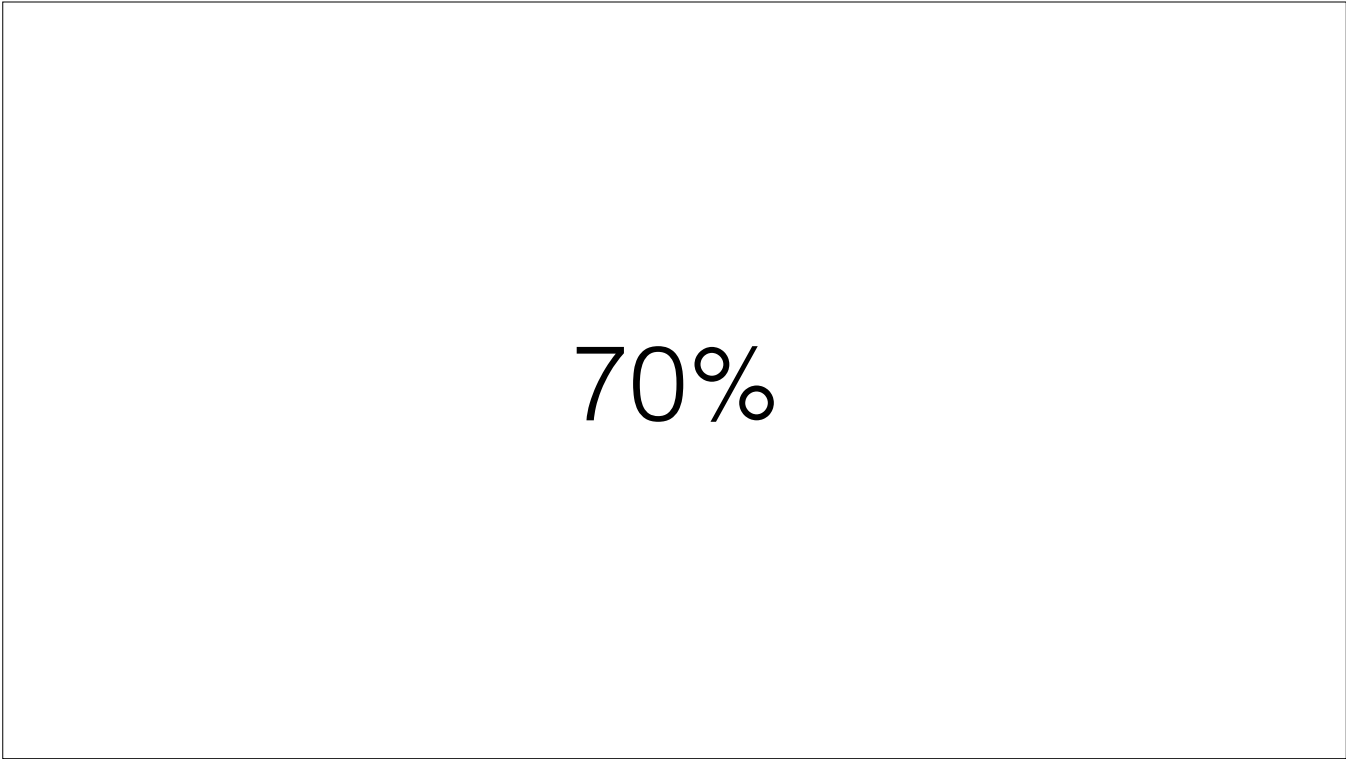


4.6 billion

In 2016, people watched 4.6 billion hours of pornography at just one website (the biggest porn site in the world). That's 524,000 years of porn or, if you will, around 17,000 complete lifetimes. In that same time people watched 92 billion videos (or an average of 12.5 for every person on earth). Significance: So many people are using so much porn today that it is really impossible to tabulate. But understanding how much is consumed at just one site can at least help us see that this problem is nothing less than epidemic.

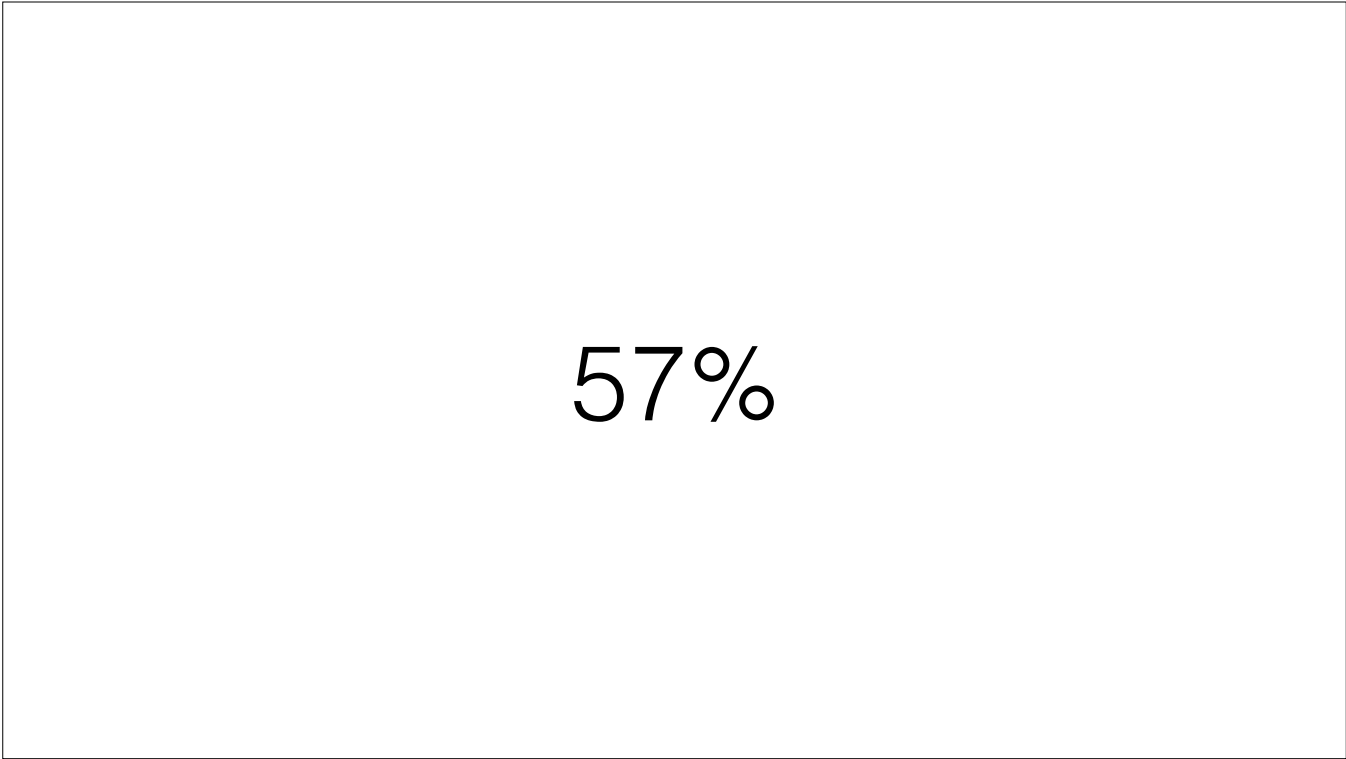
11

At age 11, the average child has already been exposed to explicit pornographic content through the internet. 93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to internet-based pornography during their adolescent years and 22% of the vast quantities of porn consumed by people aged under 18 is consumed by those aged less than 10. Significance: Parents are nothing short of negligent if they take no steps to protect their children from being exposed to pornography.



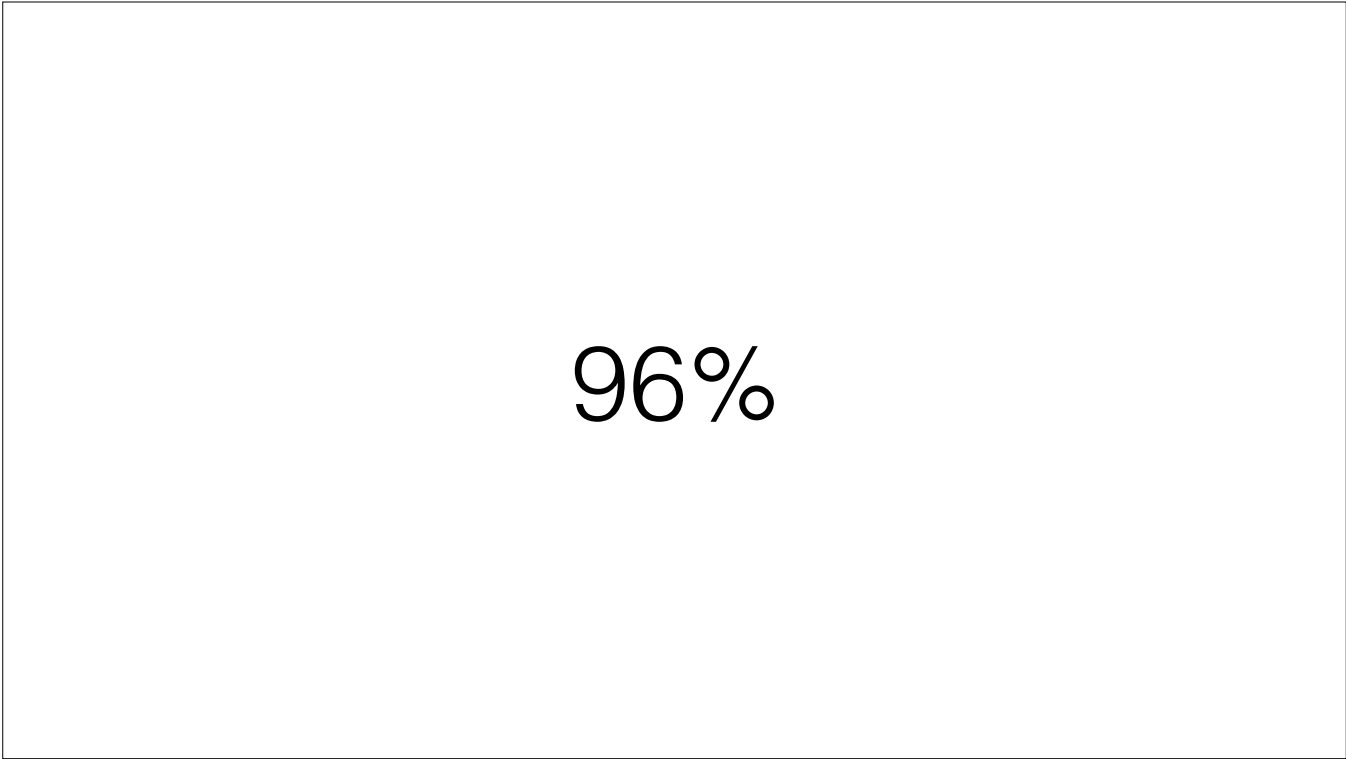
70%

70% of teens and young adults define porn by its function, not its form. Pornography is not defined first as nudity or even presentations of sexuality, but as anything intended to bring about sexual arousal. Significance: Young adults do not consider things pornographic if they are not explicitly intended to cause arousal, so sex and nudity in movies or television is not considered pornographic, especially if it is an integral element to a story. As Christians we need to teach a thorough theology of the body and of sexuality.



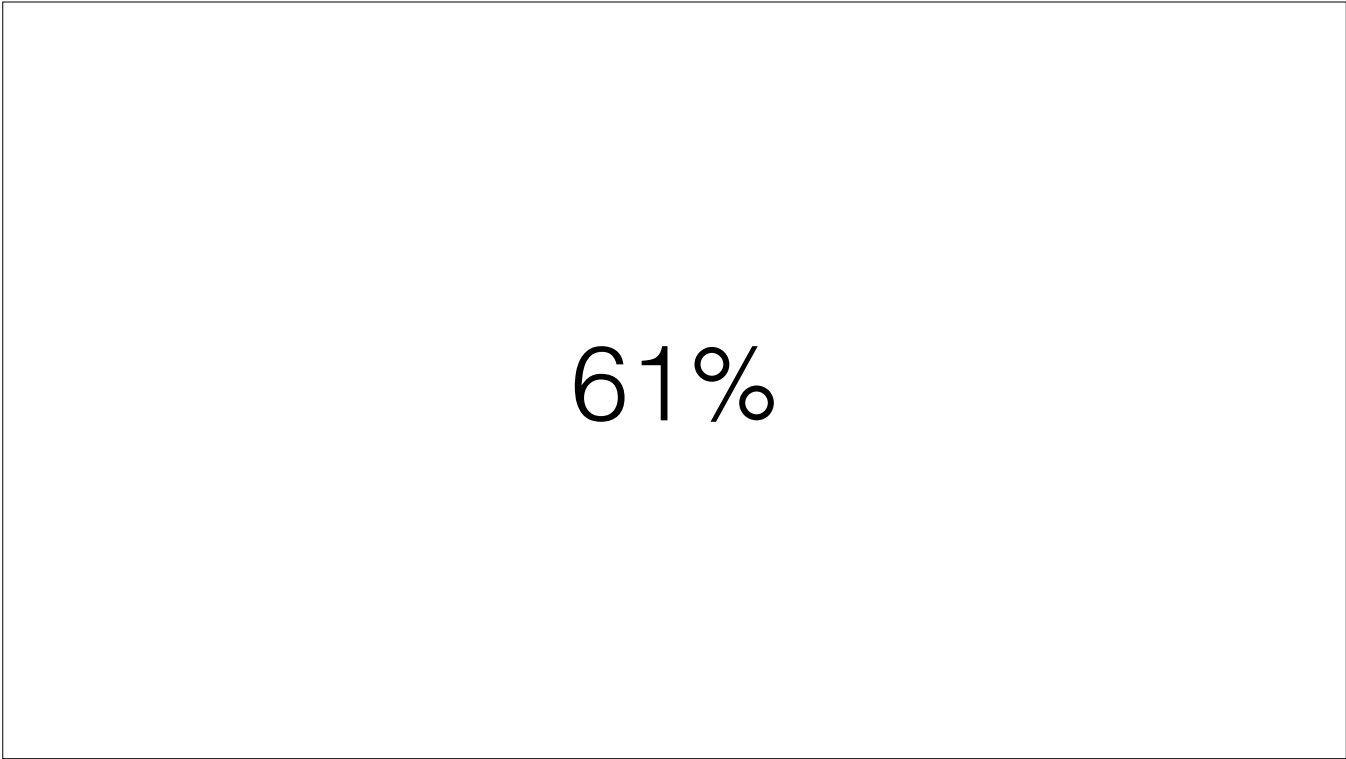
57%

57% of young adults admit to seeking out porn at least once per month. 46% of men admit to the same. Meanwhile, 49% of young adults say that most or all of their friends use porn on a regular basis. Significance: Porn use is rampant across most age categories, but is particularly pronounced among young adults.



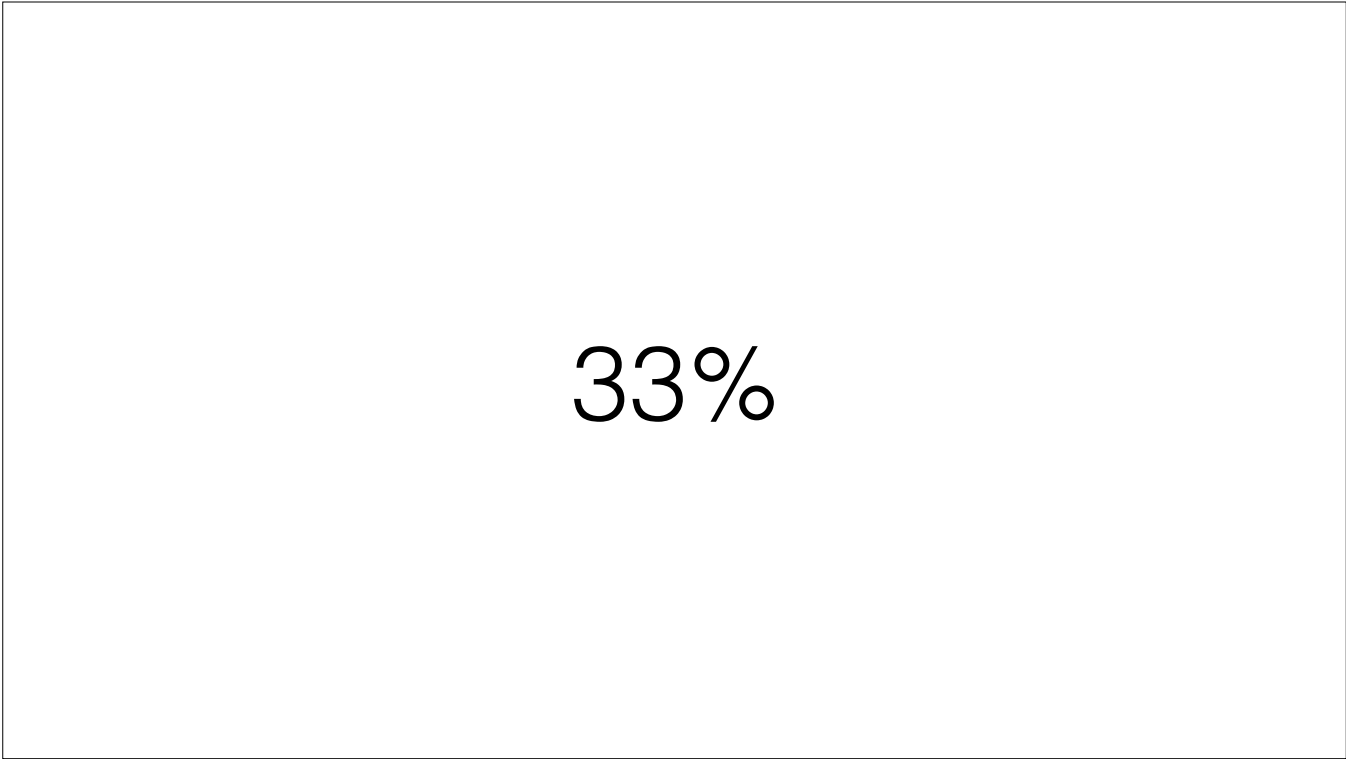
96%

96% of young adults are either encouraging, accepting, or neutral in their view toward pornography. (17% talk about porn in a positive way, 43% in an accepting way as if it's just a reality of life in this world, while 36% don't consider the morality of it at all.) That leaves only a tiny minority who consider it a negative thing. Only 1 in 20 young adults say their friends consider porn a bad thing. Significance: Early exposure to pornography and the negligence of parents to adequately address it leaves young adults believing pornography is normal and acceptable and its use unremarkable.



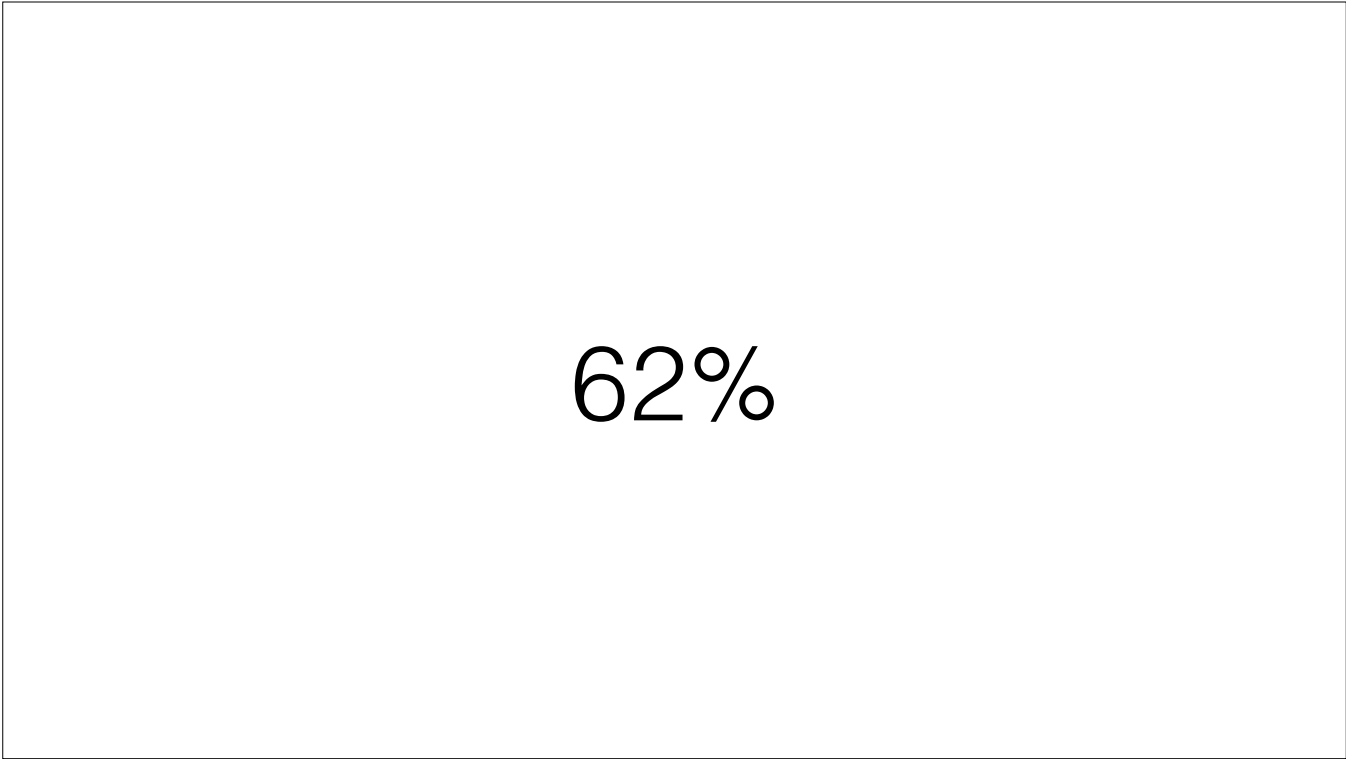
61%

61% of pornography is watched on a mobile phone. In the United States that is as high as 70%. Significance: Parents used to believe that putting a computer in a well-trafficked place and installing Covenant Eyes on it would be sufficient to keep their children from accessing pornography. But today pornography is as mobile as our phones and people consume it in complete privacy. They can access it through the family's wifi connection, through their mobile data connection, or anywhere else they can get onto the internet.



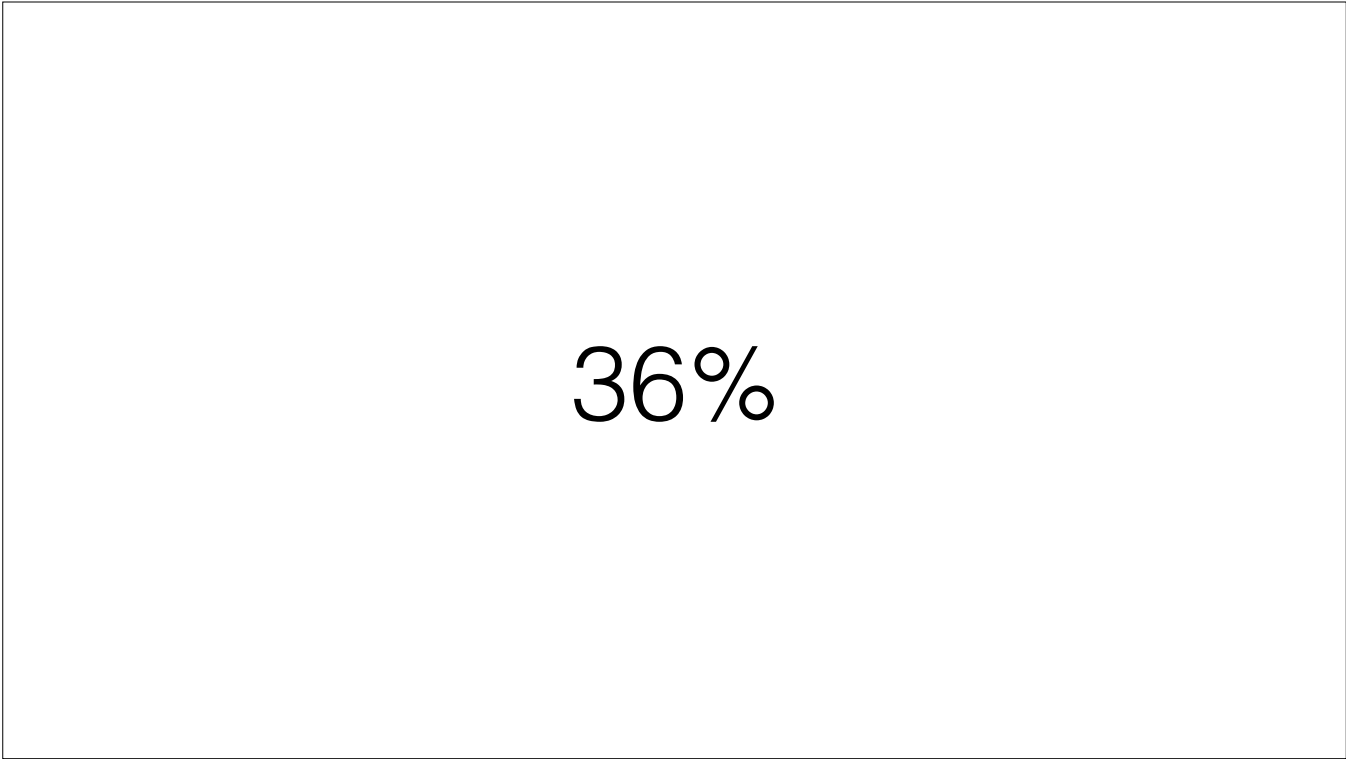
33%

Today, 33% of women aged 25 and under go searching for porn at least once per month. 56% of women in that age group have gone looking for it at least one time in the past (compared to 27% of those aged 25 or older). Significance: Pornography has typically been considered the domain of men, but its use is rising among women. We must be careful not to ostracize young women who may be struggling with porn by speaking about it as if it is an issue that pertains only to men. Our churches must be prepared to help young women who are locked in this struggle just as we've been willing to help young men.



62%

62% of teens and young adults have received a sexually explicit image. Meanwhile, 41% have sent one, usually to their boyfriend or girlfriend. Women are more likely to both send and receive these nude images, presumably because it has become part of the dating ritual that women send nude or nearly-nude photos of themselves to boyfriends or potential boyfriends. Significance: Young people are using their digital devices to trade in self-porn; there is immense pressure on young women to send photos of themselves to young men (who, of course, can never be trusted with such photos). Parents must address this with their sons and daughters.



36%

36% of young adults watch pornography to get tips or ideas that they can apply to their own sexual relationships. This increases to 38% in the next oldest demographic, then falls sharply. However, among older people, pornography is more commonly used to “set the mood” for sexual activity with a partner. The most common reasons people use pornography are personal arousal or boredom. Significance: Young people are learning about sex through pornography and then, inevitably, attempting to perform what they have seen on their sexual partners. Yet pornography teaches everything but the reality of sex as God intends it. They are learning from the very worst of teachers!



80%

80% of porn users feel no sense of guilt when using porn. Significance: We know that any sin, when repeated over time, begins to deaden the conscience. Those who at first felt guilt about pornography soon come to find their conscience hardened, then seared. Porn is so available, so common, so celebrated, and so widely-used, that many people have lost even that inner sense that it is wrong.

Conclusion:

We are dealing with a cultural epidemic that is in the church as much as out side the church and is increasingly affecting women as well as men. As Christians we can and must be prepared to help those who are struggling with it and to assure them that they can be forgiven and freed. As parents we can and must take action to protect and equip our children so we can help them overcome and avoid it.

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:16-17 (NASB)

To combat this we must fill ourselves with something else. Develop a taste for and an appetite for what is best. We must teach our children and talk to our children about sex.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*

ecom

a charging station

ecom

a digital device contract

3.com

technology sabbath

3.com



Internet Accountability and Filtering Software



Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

“Nothing is very strong: strong enough to steal away a man's best years not in sweet sins but in a dreary flickering of the mind over it knows not what and knows not why, in the gratification of curiosities so feeble that the man is only half aware of them, in drumming of fingers and kicking of heels, in whistling tunes that he does not like, or in the long, dim labyrinth of reveries that have not even lust or ambition to give them a relish, but which, once chance association has started them, the creature is too weak and fuddled to shake off.”

C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NASB)

Notice the necessity of verbal communication as the backbone to the spiritual health of the family unit. And how it necessarily invades every area of our lives.

25 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:25-29 (NASB)

1400 years later a lawyer asked Jesus a question. Jesus adds to loving God the command to love our neighbor.

Don't ever be embarrassed about being out of the loop. Don't let society shame you for not knowing the color of the dress, or the fact that you haven't kept up with the Kardashians.

Questions Our Tech Can Never Answer:

1. Who am I?
2. Why am I here?
3. What am I called to do?
4. Am I succeeding or failing?

The wisdom of the prudent is
to understand his way; but
the folly of fools is deceit.

Proverbs 14:8 (NASB)

For any and all true Christian growth, we must stop and pause and reflect on the habits and patterns of our lives.

Therefore be careful how you
walk, not as unwise men but as
wise, making the most of your
time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15-16 (NASB)

Time will be wasted if we are not actively pursuing its redemption.

“We use many technologies in everyday life to save time, but we rarely ask ourselves – save time for what? Is it so that we can redeem our time in some way for God’s glory (Eph. 5:15), or just waste it more creatively? Still, I suspect that many of our time-saving technologies have only made us busier, sometimes to the detriment of our spiritual lives.”

Dr. C.J. Williams, Professor, OT Studies

SOURCE: <https://www.challies.com/sponsored/technology-and-the-christian-life>

How blessed is the man who does not walk in
the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3 (NASB)

Meditation requires determination to think long, to listen for the Holy Spirit, to be determined to not be distracted.

Questions to Ask Our Tech:

1. Why were you created?
2. What is the problem to which you are the solution, and whose problem is it?
3. What new problems will you bring?
4. What are you doing to my heart?

Questions to Ask of Social Media:

1. Is this helping me love God and love people?
2. Is this building others up?
3. Are these things I want others dwelling on?
4. What are the activities in my life that breed contentment and joy with God?

Decide to use the Facebook “forum” as a place to give, to serve, or to assist others, rather than compare stories. Get on it to give, not to get. Focus on adding value. And as you do it, ask these questions:

“It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

Faithful, not Complicated

Our Bibles remind us of a world full of Shepherds, farmers and fisherman. A world of nomads who knew this was not their eternal home. We must remember that it was not a primitive world, it was in many ways advanced beyond our own in that it was less complicated. It was a world full of faithful men and women who lived simply and humbly for the glory of God, a reality that is achievable in our own time, in our own lives.

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)