

PANIC. DEPRESSION. PSYCHOSIS. HOW CONNECTION ADDICTION IS REWIRING OUR BRAINS



Presented by :

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#### My humble beginnings





#### And then there was ATARI!





#### And then Playstation

3



#### Another one of my humble beginnings





#### And then I met the Iphone

Natives vs. Immigrants

## "C" Generation

- Those of you who are 34 and under are considered a part of the digitally "connected" generation.
- You have the capability of being connected to everything (latest news, gossip, pictures, etc.).
- Information and the details of peoples daily lives are open to you with very few limitations.

### Benefits

- Instant access to information
- Social media connects us
- Online shopping, more options, cheaper prices
- Worldwide instant communication
- Helps organize our lives

### Risks

- Addiction
- Learning
- Relationships
- Pleasure



## Addiction



- 66 million results when "technology Addiction" is googled.
  - Nomophobia- the fear of being separated from your phone.
  - Flashing notification of a Facebook post, text, instagram, etc. becomes an arousal trigger that can invade you at anytime.
  - The benefit of being connected can turn into the fear of not being connected.
  - The impulse to stay connected with those outside of the room can leave us disconnected with those in the room.
  - One vs. four dimensional connections.



- Our digital gadgets are so smart that we don't have to be so smart ourselves.
- We don't have to remember how to spell words or reason through a problem when the answer is a click away.
- Our creativity, inventiveness, and ingenuity is being effected.
- It can disrupt our learning.
  - 84% of students surveyed said digital technology disrupted their learning once an hour.



## Relationships

- Connection digitally is good up to a point but does not replace 4 dimensional real intimate social connections.
- In face to face relationships it takes an advanced set of skills to talk, work through conflict, and have meaningful engagement.
- Connection through digital technology does not require that we develop the skills necessary to be face to face.
- If our primary means of connecting is digitally then our skills for face to face interaction can go underdeveloped.



"While the brains of generation C are wiring up for rapid fire digital connections while the pathways for human interaction and communication weaken"

#### Archibald Hart



- Anhedonia- Loss of the capacity to experience pleasure.
- Constant visual stimulation can overload the pleasure center of the brain, leaving it flooded.

### **Overstimulation & Pornography**



### **Prefrontal Cortex Problems**

- Short attention span
- **M**Impulsivity
- **Procrastination**
- **M** Disorganization
- **Poor judgment**
- Lack of empathy and insight



# Solution is Rehabituation & Balance

• Spend time away from your phone.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU MISPLACED YOUR PHONE?



- Build as many face to face encounters as you have digital encounters.
- Still your mind through mediation, prayer, and other mindful activities.
- Give your pleasure system regular breaks in order to restore it's balance.
- Notice and appreciate small pleasures.

### Questions/Discussion?