

Re:Connecting, Part 1: Image or Organism?

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The 1st Sunday in Lent
18 February, A.D. 2018
Gen 22.1-18; Jms 1.12-18; Mk 1.9-15

Introduction: The Reality Before Us

What is a "WMD"? (Hint: It's not what you think.)

Tristan Harris (former Google software designer):

WMD = _____

What do industry insider acknowledge about smart phone apps?

McDonalds hooks us by appealing to our bodies' cravings for certain flavors; Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter hook us by delivering what psychologists call "variable rewards." Messages, photos, and "likes" appear on no set schedule, so we check for them compulsively, never sure when we'll receive that dopamine-activating prize. (Delivering rewards at random has been proved to quickly and strongly reinforced behavior.) Checking that Facebook request will take only a few seconds, we reason, though research shows that when interrupted, people take an average of 25 minutes to return to their original task.

Bosker adds,

The trends [in software design] is toward deeper manipulation in ever more sophisticated forms. Harris [the former Google software designer] fears that Snapchat's tactics for hooking users make Facebook's look quaint.

See "The Binge Breaker," by Bianca Bosker in *The Atlantic Monthly* (September 2016)

What do most successful sites and applications do?

What is a human being?

(Biological principle) A human being a biological organism whose primary purpose is to _____ and replace itself: or

(*imago Dei* principle) A human being is a _____ and _____ creature uniquely made in the Image of God from love and for love.

How do most people interact with WMD's?

The attention economy, which showers profits on companies that seize our focus, has kicked off what Harris calls a "race to the bottom of the brain stem." "You could say that it's my responsibility" to exert self-control when it comes to digital usage, he explains, "but that's not acknowledging that there's a thousand people on the other side of the screen whose job is to break down whatever responsibility I can maintain." In short, we've lost control of our relationship with technology because technology has become better at controlling us.

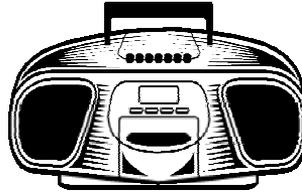
This Lent God invites us to reflect on our use of media and remember who is _____ of our life.

I. Jesus' Temptations and Call

Why did Jesus submit Himself to this?

Where does this ultimately lead to?

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Mark 1:14–15 (ESV)

II. James' Call to Wisdom

A. Understanding Temptation

How should we approach our live in Christ?

CCT: In Christ God calls us to _____; that is to live as those redeemed in the image of God.

James 1:12–18 (ESV)

We want to be *very* _____ with temptations.

B. Dealing with Modern Temptations

We can learn about our interaction with cell phones from how we've learned to interact with _____.

How is this?

What if you've failed?

Conclusion

You are not just a biological organism trying to survive, but a body and soul being redeemed in the image of God; as such, be attentive to the Word of God, learn from your sins, and rest in Christ's forgiveness.