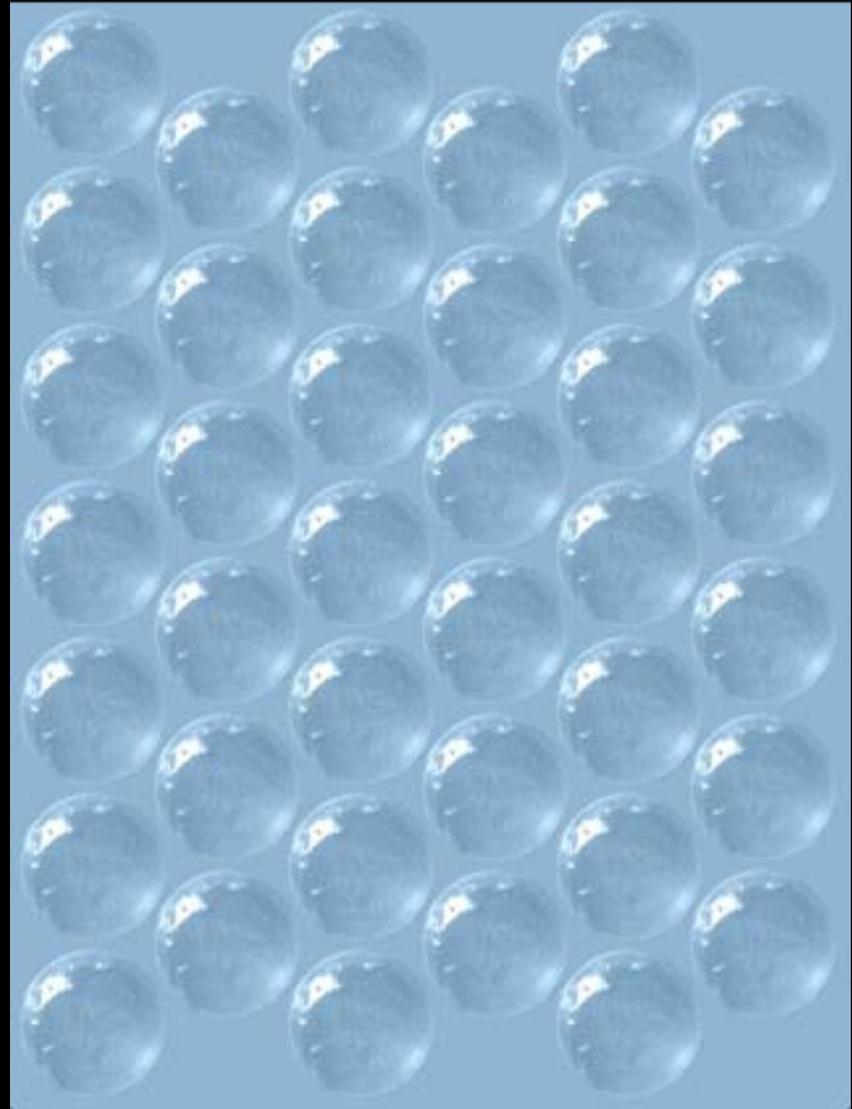


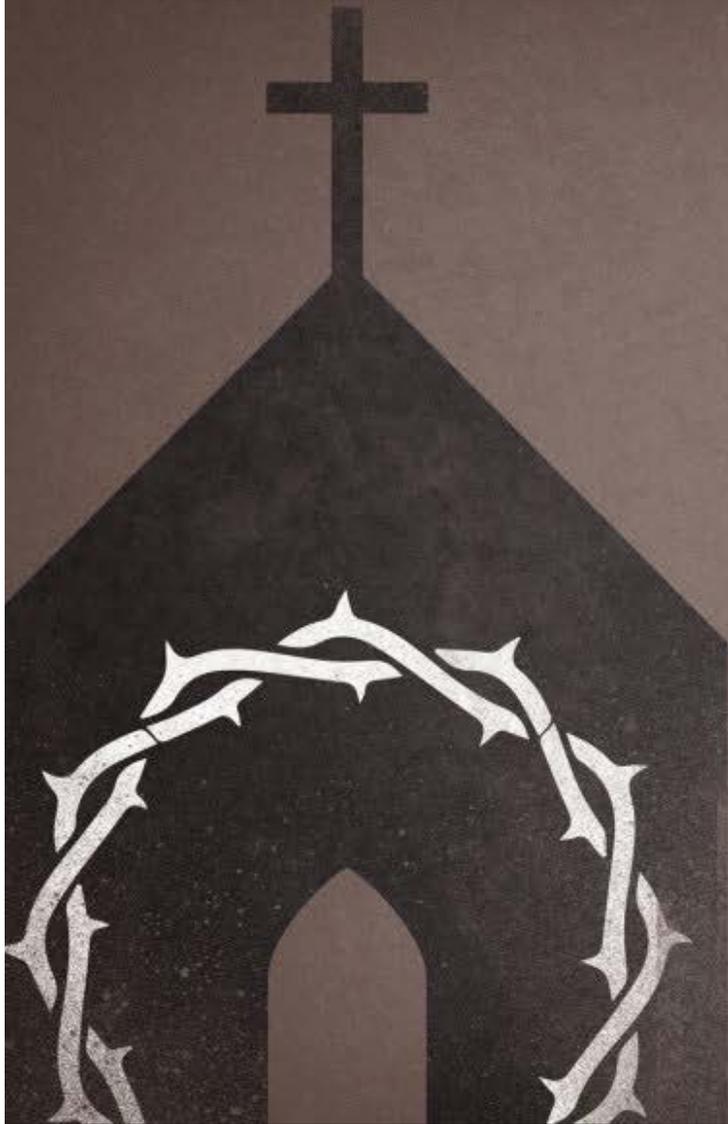






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# The Great Discipleship Challenge of our Age

## AIM OF SERIES:

- Re-think our relationship with digital technology, both practically and theologically.
- Shift 1-2 habits as learners.

## KEY QUESTION:

- Are my digital habits worth imitating?

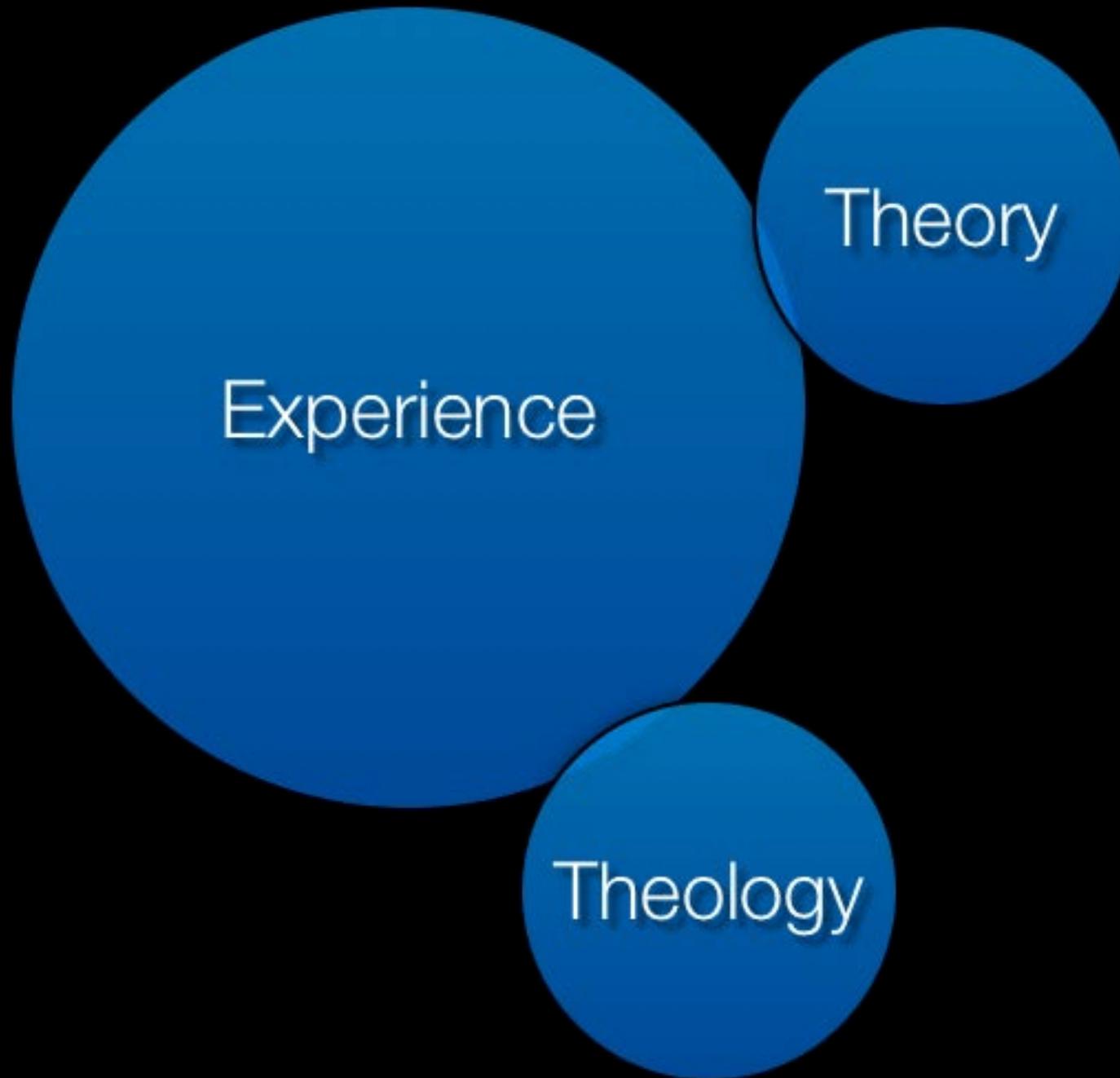


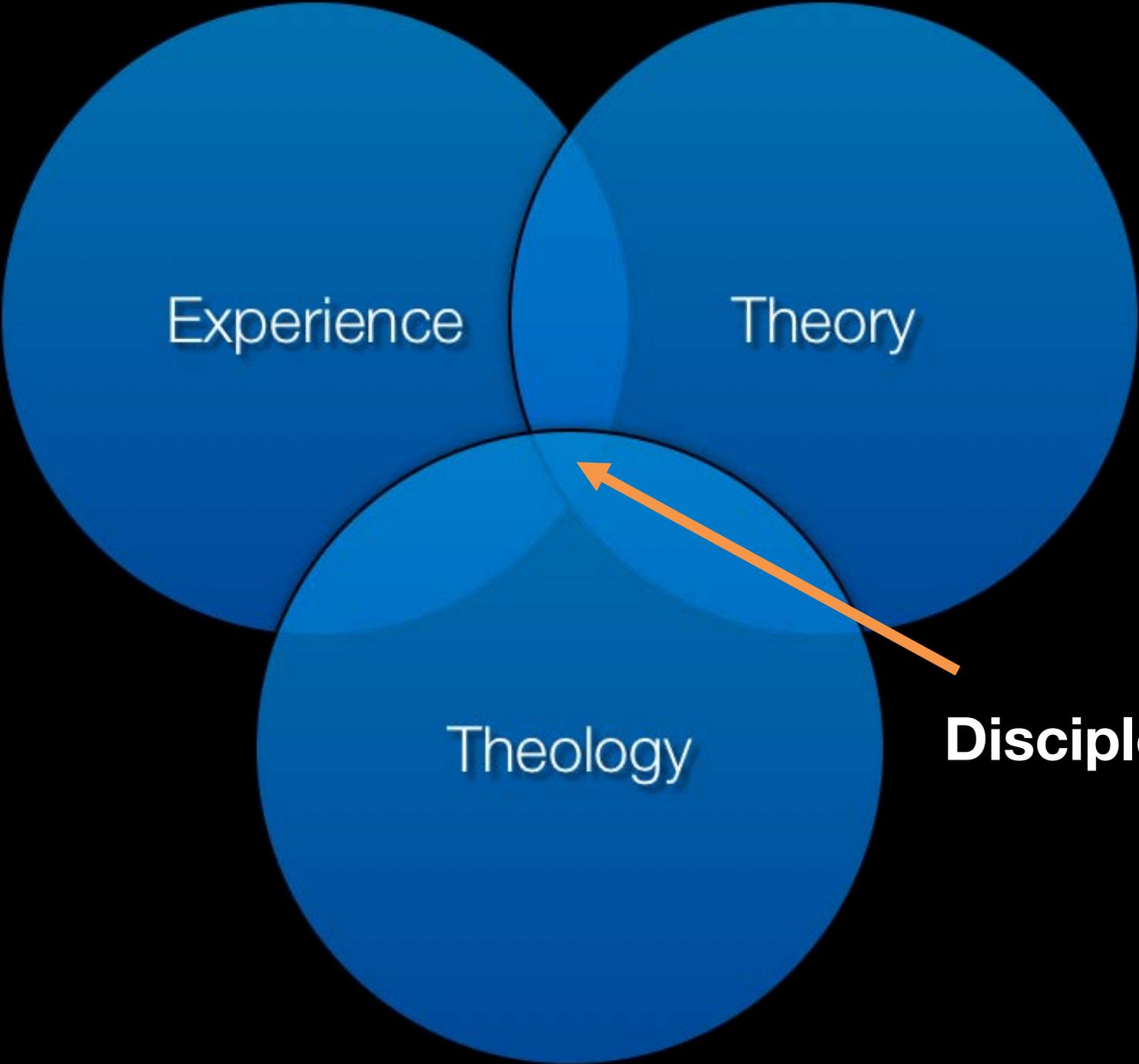
# The Great Idol of our Age



# The Great Idol of our Age







Experience

Theory

Theology

**Discipleship**

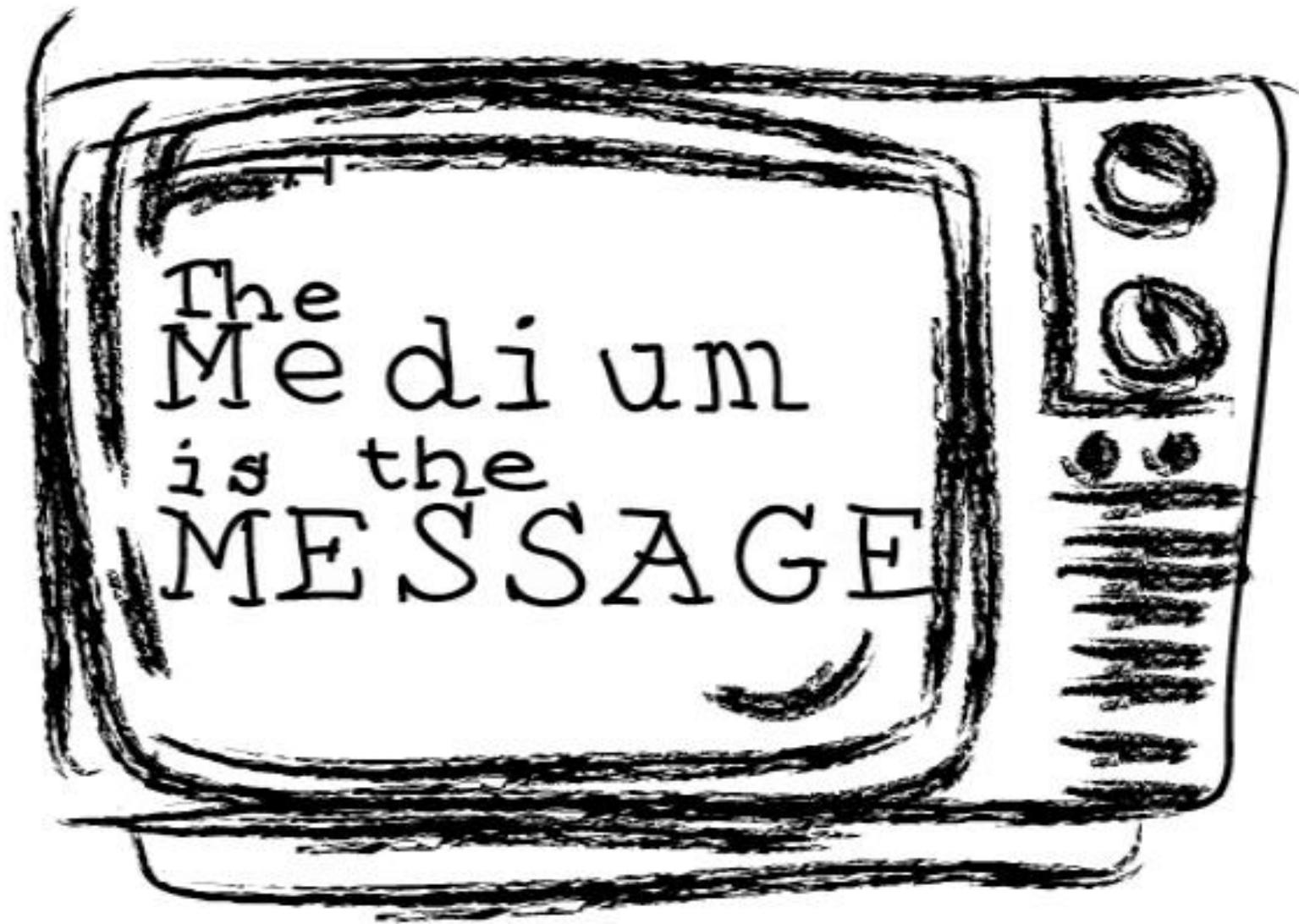


## MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE

- All technology is built on ideas (the medium) and this impacts behaviour more than content (the message).
- As disciples of Jesus, we must consider both the medium and the message as we engage in new media.







Marshall McLuhan

*"In the long run a medium's content matters less than the medium itself in influencing how we think and act. As our window onto the world, and onto ourselves, a popular medium moulds what we see and how we see it -- and eventually, if we use it enough, it changes who we are, as individuals and as a society."*

Nicolas Carr, *The Shallows*

Every technology is built on ideas which in turn, shape us.



*“Every technology has embedded deep within it some kind of ideology. There are ideas that lie behind every technology that will make their way known over time...”*

*The ideas that lie behind a given technology are often only apparent after time has passed and we have engaged in persistent and deliberate reflection. These ideas are often extremely influential, and they strike at the very heart of our human identity. We are inevitably shaped by the ideas our technologies carry within them.”*

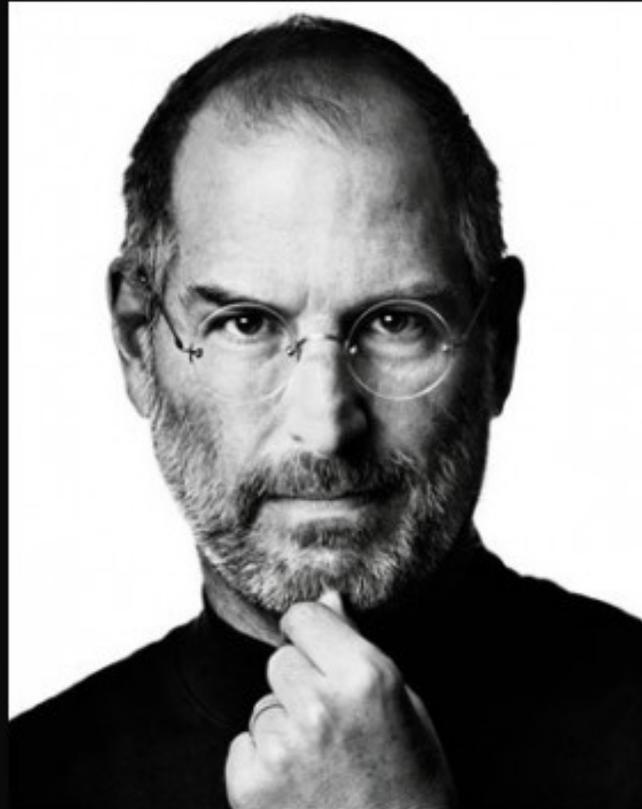
*Tim Challies*



iPod

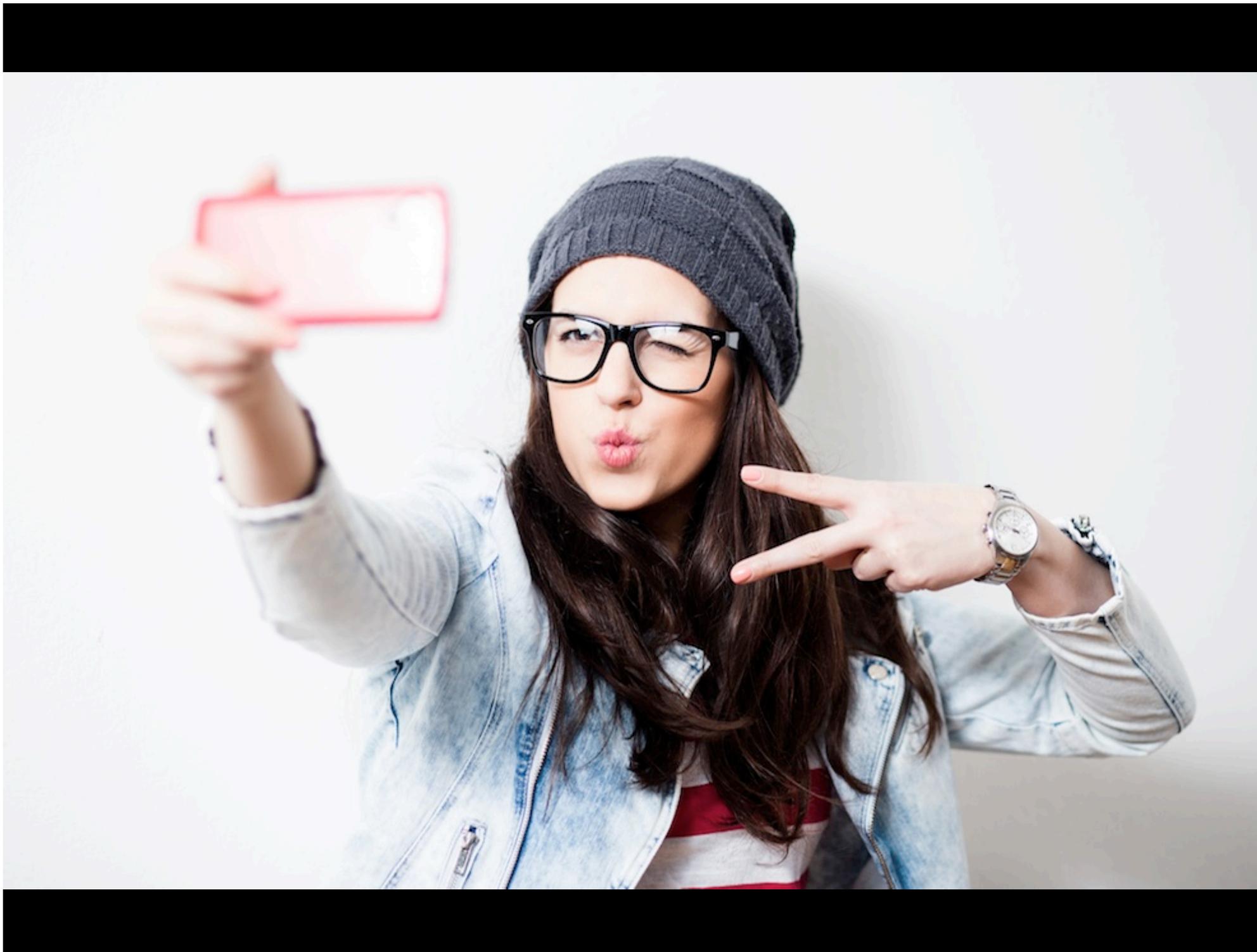
Phone

Internet



An iPod, a phone, an internet mobile communicator... these are NOT three separate devices! And we are calling it iPhone! Today Apple is going to reinvent the phone. And here it is.

(Steve Jobs)



# THEORY OF TECHNOLOGY

- Why was it created? What ideas lie behind it?
- What problems do I have that this technology solves?  
Are they real or imagined problems?
- What new problems do you envisage this technology might create?
- What disciplines or accountabilities might I establish?
- What are you doing to my heart? My spirit?

Jean M. Twenge, PhD

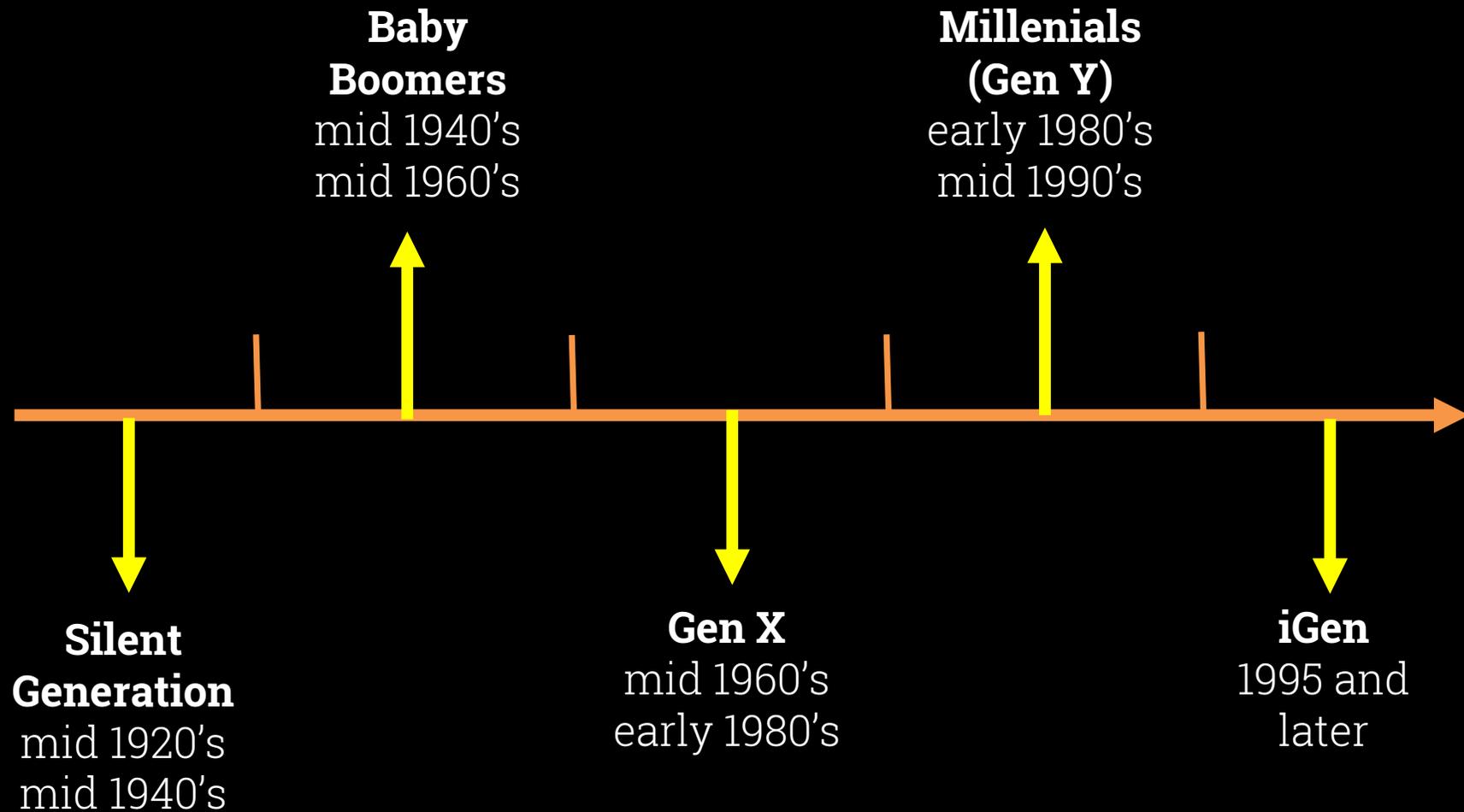
author of *Generation Me*

iGen



Why Today's  
Super-Connected  
Kids Are Growing Up  
Less Rebellious, More  
Tolerant, Less Happy—  
and Completely  
Unprepared for  
Adulthood\*

\*and What That Means for the Rest of Us



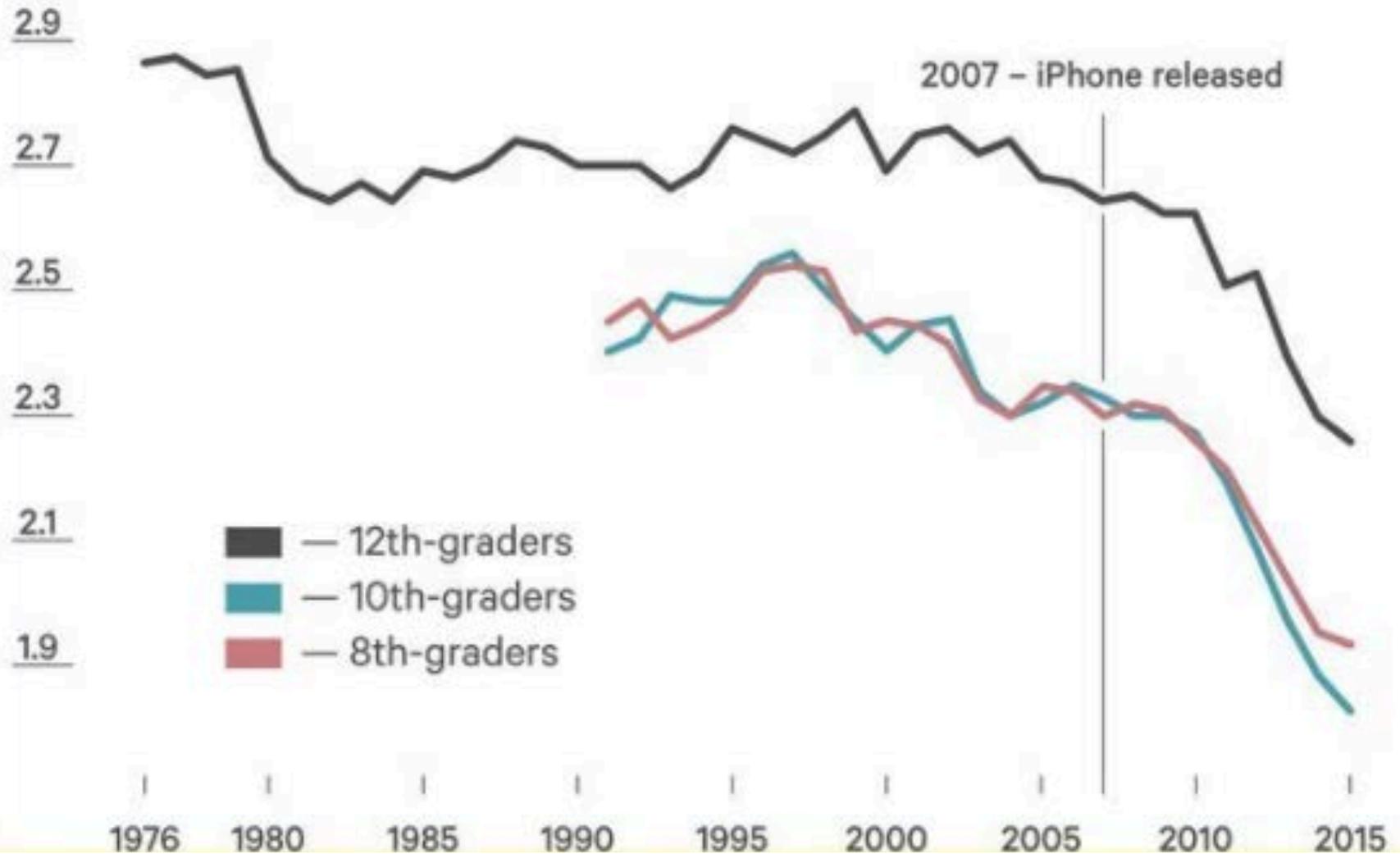
# MOUNTAINS AND CLIFFS

*“Around 2012, I noticed abrupt shifts in teen behaviors and emotional states. The gentle slopes of the line graphs became steep mountains and sheer cliffs, and many of the distinctive characteristics of the Millennial generation began to disappear. In all my analyses of generational data – some reaching back to the 1930s – I had never seen anything like it.”*

Jean Twenge – iGen research 2007

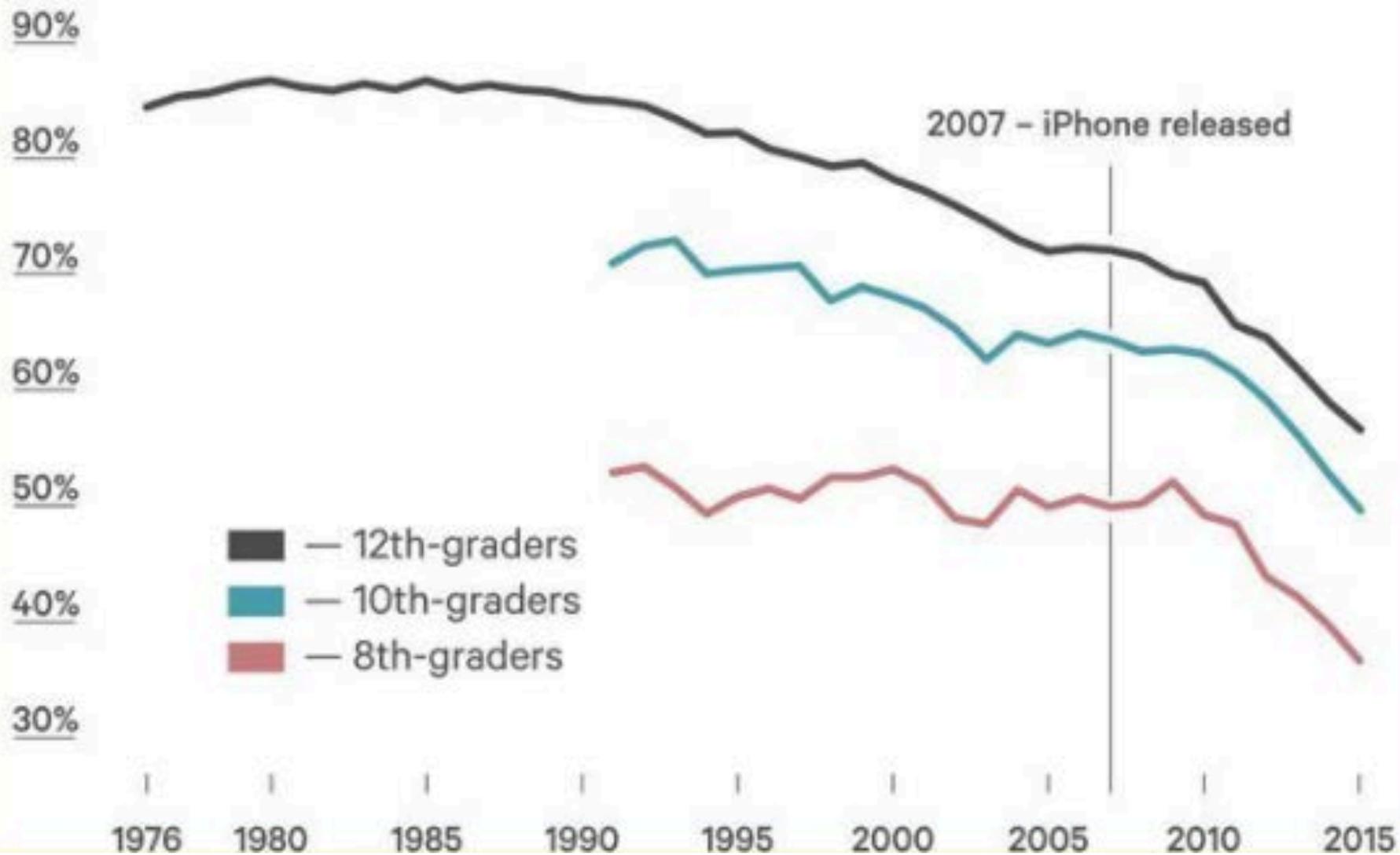
# Not Hanging Out With Friends

Times per week teenagers go out without their parents



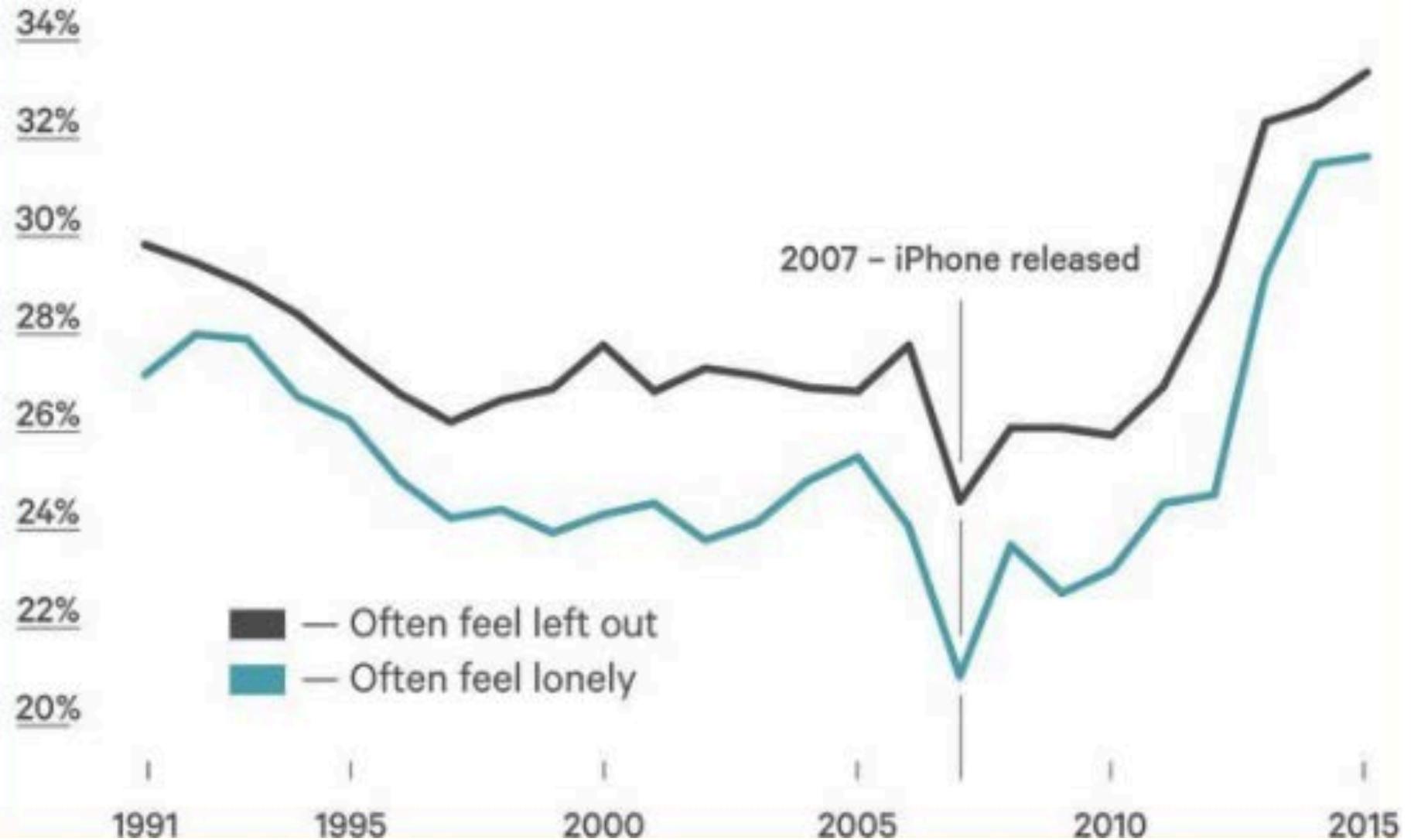
# Less Dating ...

Percentage of teenagers who ever go out on dates



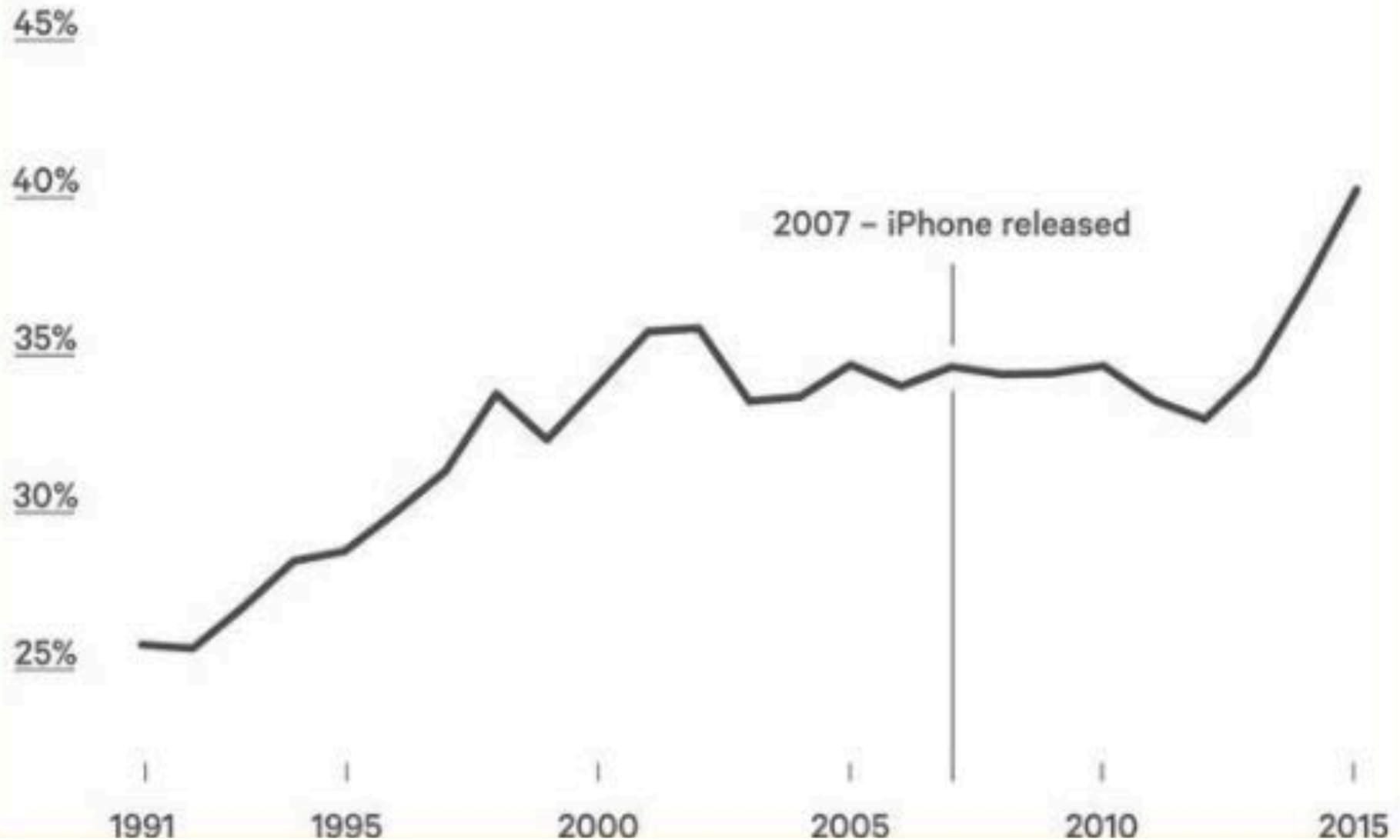
# More Likely to Feel Lonely

Percentage of 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-graders who agree or mostly agree with the statement "I often feel left out of things" or "A lot of times I feel lonely"

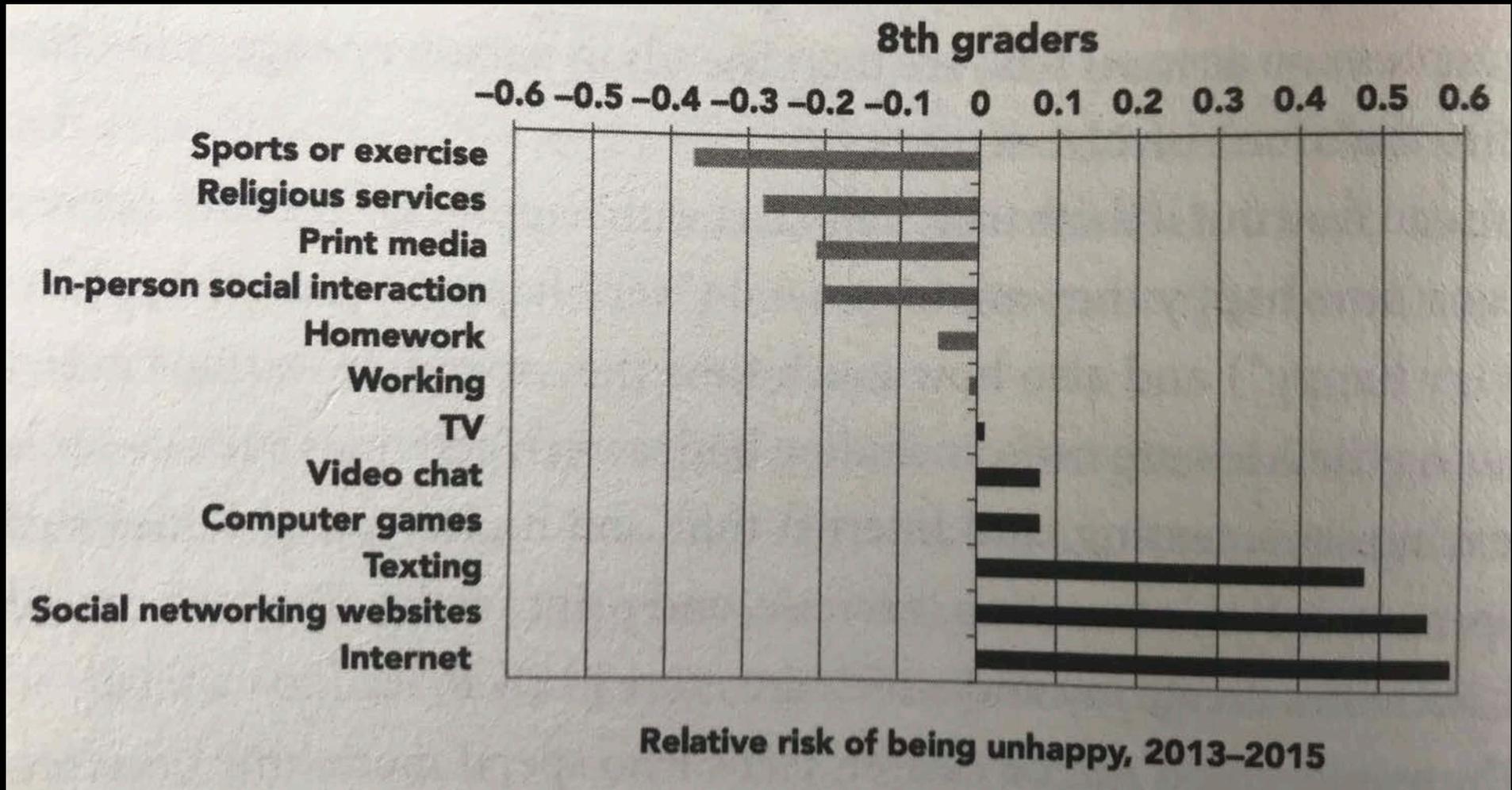


# Less Likely to Get Enough Sleep

Percentage of 8th-, 10th-, and 12th-graders who get less than seven hours of sleep most nights



# TRADING LIFE FOR SCREENS



# THEORY OF TECHNOLOGY

*“Teens who spend more time on screen activities are more likely to be unhappy, and those who spend more time on non-screen activities are more likely to be happy. There’s not a single exception: all screen activities are linked to less happiness, and all non-screen activities are linked to more happiness.”*

Jean Twenge – iGen research 2007

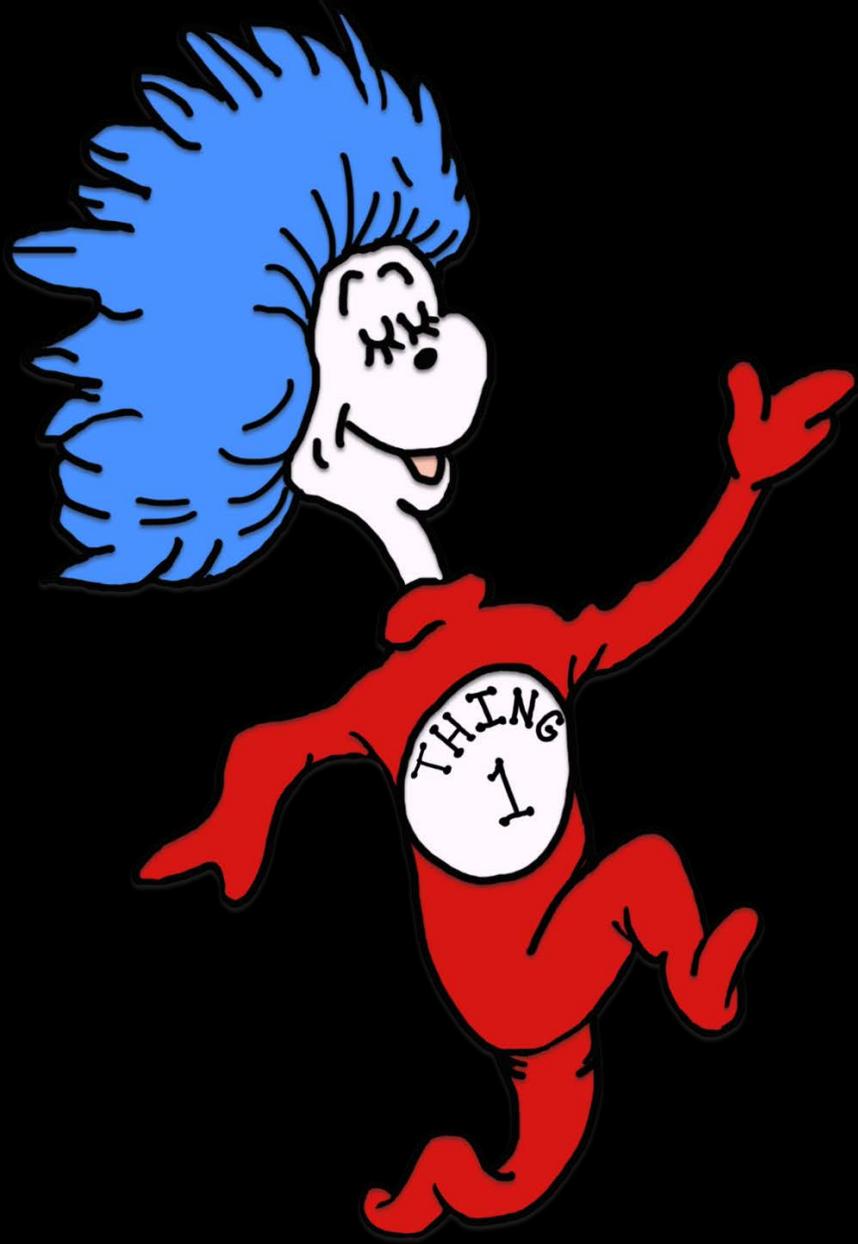
*“The smart phone has redefined what it means to be human.”*

John Mark Comer

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Ideas. Medium. Idolatry



# THEOLOGY OF TECHNOLOGY

- God created us in his image – therefore we too can **create**.

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female, he created them.”*

*Gen 1:27*

# THEOLOGY OF TECHNOLOGY

- We are corrupt and therefore our creations are **corrupt**.

*“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”*

*Gen 3:5*

# THEOLOGY OF TECHNOLOGY

- We become like the tools that we worship.

*“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have eyes, but do not see; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.”*

*Psalm 115: 4-8*

# THEOLOGY OF TECHNOLOGY

- We become like the tools that we worship.

*“Their idols are lithium, cobalt and glass, the work of human hands. They have cameras, but do not see; Siri, but do not speak. They have touch-screens, but do not feel; mobility, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.”*

*Psalm 115: 4-8*

Is my phone the last thing that I put down at night and the first thing that I pick up in the morning?

Do I neglect relationships, exercise, silence, reading or prayer, because of my phone habits?

Is my phone making me vulnerable to another idols – work, lust, approval, escapism, distraction etc.?

Is my phone ruling my time, and therefore becoming the functional master of my heart?

Are my digital habits worth imitating?



