

# Social Media Influences on *Parents & Children*

Holding to ***Biblical Truths*** During  
Challenging Times

# *Housekeeping*

- No need to take photos of the screen-all will be shared
- I'm happy to help any way I can
- My email will be on the final slide of the pdf
- Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead....:)

# *Professional Experience*

- About 30 years experience in education, public & private
- Middle School Spanish teacher to Professor of Education Law & Leadership
- A brief foray into Kindergarten



*But just as  
valuable as  
professional  
experience...*



A

*Perennial*

Problem





**WARNING**  
Read and follow all instructions carefully.  
• Use only with baby who can hold head steady  
• Always adjust to fit baby's height  
• Never lift or carry baby  
• Never use toy bars

**ADVERTENCIA**  
Peligro de caída: bebés han sufrido fracturas de cráneo  
• Usar sólo con bebés que puedan sostener la cabeza  
• Siempre ajustar correctamente la altura  
• Nunca levantar o cargar al bebé  
• Nunca usar las barras de juguete

# Speaker Notes

- A problem well defined is half solved, so let's see if we can define it.
- What is/are the challenge(s) parents are facing today? (Question for audience.)
- Most broadly, the challenge is raising Godly children. If we fail at that, not much else matters.
- Are these challenges different from those faced by parents in past generations?



“The children now ***love luxury***; they have bad manners,  
***contempt for authority***; they show ***disrespect for***  
***elders*** and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now  
***tyrants***, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise  
when elders enter the room. They ***contradict their***  
***parents***...and ***tyrannize their teachers***.” Socrates

And from a higher authority...

“*Folly* is bound up in  
the *heart* of a *child...*”

(Proverbs 22:15)

*What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is  
what will be done, and there is  
nothing new under the sun.  
(Ecclesiastes 1:9)*

## Speaker Notes

- The challenge of raising children to become Godly adults is not new
- Since the fall, our adversary has worked overtime trying to corrupt what God created
- However, parents today face many challenges experienced uniquely by this generation (Living in a post-Christian society)
- Some current challenges are simply new to this generation of parents (disease of affluence)
- Some current challenges are new to humanity (Internet)

# The *Good* & the *Bad* of the Internet & Associated Technologies

## *The Good*

- Basically all the information known to mankind available with a search term and a click or two
- The ability to communicate instantly with anyone, near or far



## *The Bad*

- Basically all the information known to mankind available with a search term and a click or two
- The ability to communicate instantly with anyone, near or far

## Speaker notes

- The internet and associated technologies are simply tools
- Like all tools, they may be used for good or evil purposes
- The more efficient and powerful the tool, the greater the good or evil which a human being can accomplish with it
- Communication might be the most powerful tool available to humans (Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9)

## Speaker Notes (cont.)

- The internet is uniquely powerful in its ability to facilitate communication

### Our responsibility as parents is:

- to give tools to our children that are appropriate to their spiritual, physical, and emotional maturity (we don't give guns to 4 year olds)
- To give them tools designed to serve the ends for which God designed them as individuals
- To teach them to use those tools for Godly ends

# *Specific Good*

- Devices can provide parents a way to know kids are *safe, ready to be picked up, need help*, etc.
- Devices can allow students to work on *group projects* for school after school hours.
- Devices can allow students to *find* valuable *information* with relative *ease*. (I'm not sure that is a universal good, by the way.)
- Devices can allow students to *communicate* with *friends and family* easily.

## Speaker Notes

- Collect calls from Macon as compared to a text.
- Believe me, your child's teachers or coaches do not want him waiting at 9:30 after a basketball game with no way to get in touch with you.
- If your child does not have a cell phone, either ensure that she has your number written down, memorized, or tattooed on her forehead.
- There is value in learning to work together, but educators should be cautious with how they are graded, how often they are assigned, etc.
- When things are given to us easily, we tend to take them for granted. Food can literally fall from the sky for free and we stop valuing it. With education, we accept the easy answer we find through a google search as true, and forget the process of finding and analyzing information for ourselves.



## *Specific Bad*

- Possibility of *immature* kids seeing words or images that can *never be erased*.
- *False impression* that chat groups, etc. *are private*, and will remain so.
- *False impression* that what one sees on *social media is real*.
- Can provide a *forum* for communication *unsupervised* by parents.
- Possible exposure to *material* that they can't unsee, and that *is designed to* lead them astray.

## Speaker Notes (point 1)

- ABA study on effects of pornography on children  
““““imagery definitely affects children” and...children receive unhealthy sexual images from adult pornography.” (Dr. Sharon Cooper, UNC School of Medicine)
- Sets up unhealthy & unrealistic expectations for sex inside the marital covenant
- Approximately one in five youth experience unwanted online exposure to sexually explicit material and one in nine youth experience online sexual solicitation. Educational campaigns to raise awareness of Internet risks and safety strategies are warranted.  
[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(18\)30134-4/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(18)30134-4/fulltext)
- Keep in mind that these data are only unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material.

(points 1 & 2 cont.)

- Youthful passion and indiscretion can lead them to say things that can't be unsaid. Adults can't control themselves on religious blogs. Kids certainly can't. "Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops" (Luke 12:3) (see, e.g., Jake Fromm incident)
- Face App is apparently owned by the Russian government. But beyond that, kids should not trust that their "friends" will keep things private. Transmission of child pornography is a crime, even if it's done by a "child" (GA statue on this)

<https://codes.findlaw.com/ga/title-16-crimes-and-offenses/ga-code-sec-16-12-100-2.html>

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<https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2019/07/22/faceapp-aging-photos-russia-privacy-security>





## Speaker Notes (points 3-5)

- Molly, Rachael, and the film industry
- “It’s time we stopped trying to make a profit on kids’ developing brains,” Prinstein said. “For the first time in human history, we have given up autonomous control over our social relationships and interactions, (n.b., not sure this is the first time) and we now allow machine learning and artificial intelligence to make decisions for us.” (Chief Science Officer, APA)
- Russian & Chinese women want to meet me

(points 3-5 cont.)

- Former colleague who worked in Las Vegas
- Due to the effect that it has on the [brain](#), social media is addictive both physically and psychologically. According to a new study by Harvard University, self-disclosure on social networking sites lights up the same part of the brain that also ignites when taking an addictive substance.

<https://www.addictioncenter.com/drugs/social-media-addiction/#:~:text=Due%20to%20the%20effect%20that,when%20taking%20an%20addictive%20substance>.

- Would you turn your kids over to strangers who, at best, are indifferent to their moral development, and at worst see them as objects to be used for some evil purpose? Would you do so unsupervised, and for hours at a time?

What apps  
are young  
people using to  
communicate?

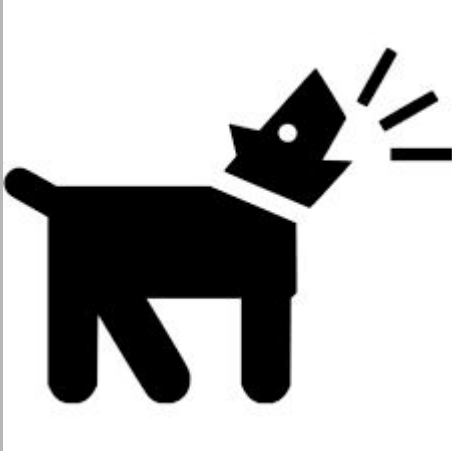


# Speaker Notes

- TicToc, Snapchat, Instagram, Text Groups, a variety of apps that work well on small, mobile devices.
- Not many kids login to the family desktop to post on facebook.
- A simple google search will tell anyone how to hide apps that have been downloaded onto a device.

- Some apps, for example Snapchat, are designed so that posts disappear in a specified amount of time:  
<https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/article/when-are-snap-s-chats-deleted>
- The recipient of a snap can save it, and it stays on the server.
- Anyone can take a screenshot.
- Teach your kids to behave as if there is no such thing as “delete.”
- Better yet, KEEP THEM OFF SNAPCHAT!

# *How Parents Can Minimize Risks*



<https://smartsocial.com/post/find-hidden-apps-phone>

<https://www.bark.us/blog/find-hidden-apps/>

<https://www.bark.us/>

<https://bark-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/guides/Bark-tech-contract.pdf>

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/174084?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>

p.s.(You cannot win the arms race, and you'd be foolish to try!)

## Speaker Notes

### Suggested Household Tech Rules

No devices in the bedroom, ever, but especially at night!

- In addition to the sleep deprivation associated with devices in bed, (See [The Collapse of Parenting](#), Leonard Sax) you are putting temptation in their path which they are not mature enough to resist-not spiritually, not mentally, not physically.
- The portion of the male brain that assesses risk/reward is not mature until the late 20s
- If you allow your son to have a device in his bedroom, you just put him to bed with a porn machine. Apologies for the bluntness, but I must tell you the truth about this clearly.

Remember who actually owns the device

- Hint-your child can't afford it
- You own it, you just let them use it
- Under [GA law](#), parents have the legal right to eavesdrop on their children's conversations.
- Under [GA law](#), parents have the right to search their children's rooms and possessions

Remember the main purpose of the device

- To communicate with you, the parent. Therefore...
- If your child fails to communicate on your timeline, there is no valid purpose for them having a device
- Therefore, there is no reason for you to keep paying for it. Take it away.
- No devices on our Washington, D.C. trip, for four days, and the kids are as happy as they can be



## ***Parental Responsibility & Authority***

- *To repeat...our **responsibility** as parents is **to provide** our children with tools **appropriate** to their level of spiritual, physical, and emotional maturity*
- ***Spend time with and know your children!***  
*(The Collapse of Parenting, Leonard Sax)*
- ***Knowing*** your children ***well does not mean*** being their friend.  
*(Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Exodus 20:12, Isaiah 38:19)*

## Speaker Notes (point 1)

- God gave those children to you to protect, to love, and to guide. (Psalm 127:3)
- “No.” is a complete sentence. Learn to recognize when a child is asking questions in a sincere attempt to understand, and when he is manipulating you emotionally to try to change your mind. Your response should be different in those situations.
- You should spend lots of time with your children, and you should do so with intentionality.
- Show them that, if they stray, there is always a way back.

# Speaker Notes

- What kind of relationship with your children do you want to have when they are adults? (Question for the audience.)
- The parent-child relationship should reflect the model of the God-human relationship. We cannot fully experience God's love for us until we submit to His will. (My relationship with dad.)
- God deserves our respect by His nature and his actions toward us.
- We do not share God's inherent perfection, so we should constantly work to be worthy of our children's respect.
- This includes modeling appropriate behavior as to technology.

- Teach your children that they have an adversary, and how to recognize the lies he plants in their minds and hearts. How can we do this? (Question for audience) (Show them the obvious truths of scripture vs. nonsense. Genesis 5:2; Mark 10:6; support with biological science)
- Introduce them to a Christian life that is so attractive the filth of popular culture is pale, boring, and disgusting by contrast.
- Lead your children toward both intellectual and emotional attachment to Christ, and the life He instructs us to live.

# *The **Necessity of Courage** in a post-Christian Society*

- *“And you will be **hated** by all **for my name’s sake**.”  
(Matthew 10:22)*
- *“Take up **your cross** and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)*
- *“In the world **you** will have **tribulation**.” (John 16:33)*
- *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and **courageous**...for the LORD your **God is with you wherever you go**.” (Joshua 1:9)*

***“Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means at the point of highest reality.”***

*(C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters)*

## Inducements to Courage

- Surround yourselves and your children with believers. (Phil. 2:1-2)
- Ask God for his help.
- Read the Word daily, and take heart in His promises. (“I have overcome the world.”)

***Your word I have treasured in my heart,  
That I may not sin against You.***

***Psalm 119:11***

# Contact Information

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## Social Media Safety

- <https://www.avg.com/en/signal/how-to-hide-apps-android>
- <https://smartsocial.com/post/find-hidden-apps-phone>
- <https://www.bark.us/blog/find-hidden-apps/>
- <https://www.bark.us/>
- <https://bark-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/guides/Bark-tech-contract.pdf>
- <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/174084?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid>
- <https://www.commonensemedia.org/>

## Social Media & Mental Health

- <https://www.addictioncenter.com/drugs/social-media-addiction/#:~:text=Due%20to%20the%20effect%20that,when%20taking%20an%20addictive%20substance.>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-03126-x>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5730501/>
- [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_interest/child\\_law/resources/child\\_law\\_practiceonline/child\\_law\\_practice/vol-33/may-2014/how-pornography-harms-children--the-advocate-s-role/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-33/may-2014/how-pornography-harms-children--the-advocate-s-role/)
- <https://www.apa.org/news/apa/2022/social-media-children-teens>
- <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-youth-mental-health-advisory.pdf>

## Social Media & the anti-God Agenda

- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/z-alpha/202106/how-tech-is-supporting-lgbtq-teens>
- <https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/05/13/target-is-selling-chest-binders-to-girls-who-want-to-transition/>
- <https://will-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/KASD-Title-IX-Mispronouncing-Letter.pdf>

## Parental Authority

- <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2019/title-16/chapter-11/article-3/part-1/section-16-11-66/>

## Georgia Statutes:

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2019/title-16/chapter-11/article-3/part-1/section-16-11-66/>

<https://codes.findlaw.com/ga/title-16-crimes-and-offenses/ga-code-sect-16-12-100-2.html>

## Parenting Books

- The Collapse of Parenting:  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XKQ52FW/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\\_\\_encoding=UTF](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XKQ52FW/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?__encoding=UTF8&pf_rd_p=1-1-1)