



A short diagnosis on
why we feel absurd & meaningless,
and how we can JACK
BACK into the ocean
of lightening

Disconnected?

11/15/22_d.4_Nick Sherman

1. Good heavens gentlemen, the problem is profound.

We are wealthier and more comfortable than ever, and yet...less satisfied than ever.

How can that be?

We are in a crisis of meaning.

We join Albert Camus in speculating if the only logical thing to do now is kill ourselves...

In the taco bell drive through, pondering Absurdist Existentialism.

How we arrived here would take like 50 lecture hours to unpack, broad brush, by the world's best intellectuals, just to understand why you believe what you believe because of the dead philosophers, and how we arrived at this point in history as the top 1% in the world and considering if anything means anything—a generation who has lost meaning.

Few have the time or attention or expertise to so sort all this out—most of us have day jobs. Still, we suffer from the confusion.

I hope I can help.

2. Further Diagnosis of the Disconnection.

We have been arbitized(sic). Industrialized. Specialized. Assembled.

What saved us is also killing us. Thus is the modern world. We aren't starving to death but now we have to figure out what to do with our prolonged life. A better problem than having no life to sort out, to be sure.

The human triggers that used to connect us, that used to fire like gun shots in your body to make you feel strong and alive and like a man fit to hunt the wilderness, to worship the God in the stars, to eat of our green earth—these triggers have been squelched, suppressed, sabotaged, and then forgotten...

Bears don't eat people anymore; the disconnectedness eats them. Devoured by the feelings inside of arbitrariness and confusion.

Humanity considering ironically if we should have children while we are all ourselves children. What is there left to lose as we consider whether or not birth is worthwhile?

Birth.

Complicated further by Porn of infinite variety and demand and degrees of hellishness hijacking those old primordial triggers and weaponizing them for ever greater dopamine hits, until like heroin addicts, we can't get high enough and OD.

Churches reduced to marketing plans for eternal salvation. Cancel anytime.

Don't you see the disconnection?

- Separate from our food.
- Separate from our body.
- Separate from real sex and intimacy and life making.
- Separate from God.

Gentlemen, we have been *unplugged*.

Soon enough it won't even be a metaphor.

3.) Connection.

Connection to what?

What I am referring to is Human connection to God's Creative Reality.

Connection to knowing that everything we do matters. Nothing should feel arbitrary. Every action should feel like it matters. Or else, why should it necessarily exist?

How could something exist that means nothing?

This is part of the 50-hour explanation. The idea that meaning has been removed from the object and placed in your head is a relatively new idea in the scope of history.

You do not even give yourself to the world, how can you be the giver of meaning?

But No matter.

Brothers, I heard a man ask why God would create the world if it was just going to be an arbitrary test to send people to heaven or hell.

This is not good that our faith is perceived as this arbitrary scenario.

Not long ago an elder at our church asked the question "What are we all doing here?" and I was stumped.

How? I know I cannot be the only one.

We cannot be surprised that people leave the church and start using crystals for healing and start meditating and join yoga classes and practice folk medicine. We can parody this all we want and that might make us feel safer in our own circles, but we fail if we do not consider WHY people are doing this.

People are starving for connection. People are literally going to die without it. Like branches cut from the tree.

We must appreciate the gravity of the problem gentlemen, or we make an error.

I pray CS Lewis is right when he says that the world must become pagan before it becomes Christian again, for we are in the Post-Christian Age, and people are flocking to little gods.

Brothers and sisters, these are deep riddles worth long consideration, but I will not keep you much longer, with your day job.

4.) There are many ways to reconnect.

Every gas station sells an off-brand iPhone charger.

But we must prioritize. And think foundationally. Because you're going to be told everything, sold everything, with others knowing that you are in desperate need.

You know there are many bad ways to connect.

Addiction is a powerful form of connecting.
But unstable.
Parasitic.

We want the greatest possible form, a connection to the Source.

God. The Good. The Christ.

Even if you can only imagine now. Imagine you are setting your aim on the highest possible thing. The Source.

That by definition has to be God.

We repent (turn from) the pet connections, and jack into an ocean of lightening.

5.) An Ocean of Lightening, contrasted by your day job.

When people do this, they repent of their old aim and get close to the new ones, and try to be like Christ and follow him, a part of them really dies.

A part of them sees heaven. People have groundbreaking experiences of sincere meaning and depth.

But there is that other part, the one still on earth, that has to go to its day job.

One part of you is in a disconnected world, still, in the mundane, trying to rectify that ocean of electricity the dead part of you saw and knew was real.

This is when the real battle begins.

Now you search desperately for the good forms of connection God has given for us to access on a regular basis, or you will become a dead branch, or you will become all seeds on hard soil.

There's too much of the disconnected world and too little of you.

You've got to be desperate to connect.

6.) There are things you can do.

There are things you can do, that you should do.

Make things around you better and not worse, be productive at your job, form friendships, an intimate relationship, start a family, go to church.

Do hard things. All these above, with a real effort, are hard things.

Hard things connect you like nothing else.

7.) Hello, body.

Walk. Run. Jump. Lift things.

Remember the earth and your place in it. You are a player in an arena. It's getting cold as I write this.
Go out in the cold.

I love it when it's too hot or cold to run.
I feel more connected then.
My body is plugged back into the arena.

All those triggers start firing.

Think like a foundation of a house. Your body is what goes to work, reads, interacts with your spouse, raises your children, worships your God.

You do all of that in your body, the temple of your existence. Can you neglect that and not suffer? Can you neglect its connective powers?

Even God became a body.

8. Church offers ultimate connection.

The church is a body.

The problem with leaving church is that all you'll end up doing is looking for or starting another church, in whatever lesser form.

Church exists to act reality out at the highest level. We've lost our taste for high things, for ceremony (this is part of the 50-hour lecture series).

Church is the orchestration of the collective human body and all its various members to perform their roles for the sake of the highest possible aims.

The church is about—dare I make a claim—connecting the

members of the body to God at the highest possible level. What an exciting enterprise.

There is no greater work to be done than with this body, than to reconnect to the One True Source, together, as one.

We have to know this *deeper* than in our heads.

We have to know the connection to the Christ body in a way that transforms and changes us.

Knowing isn't just explaining.

It is not enough to just say it or think it. That's a good starting point.

But you may agree we have to grow. Our connection to God has to change us and others and the world. We have to be transformed together at the deepest level.

The church is uniquely positioned for connecting to the Source.

We can't forget what we have.

It is not trivial.

Everything depends on connecting to the Source.