

Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?

By Mike Riley

Since the advent of social networks such as Twitter, Google+, and Facebook, and being able to access these networks 24/7 either via computer or Smartphone, this writer is convinced that as a society, we are promoting an artificial and temporary long-distance social environment in interacting with our fellow man, over a long term virtual reality social environment wherein we have personal one-on-one contact with our fellow man.

For example, while taking my daily afternoon walk today, I noticed a couple of ladies on the other side of the roadway walking and talking without any cell phones. They were engaged in an actual one-on-one conversation. Conversely, I also noticed a young teenage girl on the other side of the roadway looking at her phone. Sadly, she was not walking or conversing with anyone but was preoccupied with looking at her cell phone — not noticing or rejoicing that the sun was out and the birds were singing.

Writer Stephen Marche of the online publication, The Atlantic, “Is Facebook Making Us Lonely?” In his article, Mr. Marche presents a provocative perspective on the impact of Facebook and other social network software on society: **“We live in an accelerating contradiction: the more connected we become, the lonelier we are.”** Marche’s conclusion sums it up nicely:

“What Facebook has revealed about human nature — and this is not a minor revelation — is that a connection is not the same thing as a bond and that instant and total connection is no salvation, no ticket to a happier, better world or a more liberated version of humanity. Solitude used to be good for self-reflection and self-reinvention. But now we are left thinking about who we are all the time, without ever really thinking about who we are. Facebook denies us a pleasure whose profundity we had underestimated: the chance to forget about ourselves for a while, the chance to disconnect.”

After choosing to be disconnected from the social network Facebook for about a month because of work-related responsibilities, this writer agrees with Mr. Marche’s above assessment regarding human nature and Facebook (or any other social network). Perhaps we need to disconnect from social networks (at least for short periods), quit thinking only about ourselves, and focus on the spiritual needs of others in the world of virtual reality (Luke 19:1-10).

In his ministry, Jesus interacted with people in “real-time” (Luke 19:1-10; John 3:1-21; John 4:1-30), forming a lasting social bond — not just a temporary connection.

Let’s think about it!



STERLINGTON Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

11/27/22

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshipping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve Today

Announcements- Travis Rogers **Lord's Table-** Wayne Fowler
Opening prayer- Wes Chapman **Closing Prayer-** Luke Chapman

December 4th

Announcements- Paul Simpson **Lord's Table-** Todd Chapman
Opening prayer- David Reppond **Closing Prayer-** Ronnie Hayes

Announcements

— **The Ark Replica and Creation Museum trip:** The new dates are April 17-21, 2023. **The deadline to sign up is now November 30th.** This trip will be taken by bus with locally owned Mayo Tours. Contact Bro. Kenny Solley at 318-547-4545 for details and costs. All costs except traveling snacks are included.

— **Question & Answer Series: December 4th** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

— **Children's Christmas Program:** Our children will be performing a Christmas Program at the building on Saturday December 10th at 2 PM. Everyone is invited. Come support our youth!

— **Children's Home Collection:** Our kids classes are collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. The list of needed items is in the foyer.

Please Pray For:

Lilly Beth Merryweather, Mae Fricke, Edwin Lowery, Brock Dalrymple, Kelli Fatheree, Bettye Flowers, Olive Buckley, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Gail Sewell, Shelia McMannus, Jeremy Granger, Deb McInturff, Willie White.

Bereaved: Families of Youlandra Lowery, Woefud Conatser, GW Harris, Bennie Freeman, Katie McClinton.

Continue to Pray For:

James Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Bobby Simmons, Max Aabel. Roosevelt Rogers, Cindy Eaton, Tricia Muse, Donna Head, Debra Mike, Virginia Royal, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr.



November birthdays

3 - Elaine Reppond
5 - Glenda Wells
6 - Sandra Nappier
8 - Brad Smith
10 - Bo Dalrymple
11 - Tommy Wells
13 - Susie McGough
20 - Dana Fowler
25 - Dan Ross Jr.
26 - Brock Dalrymple
28 - Dena White
30 - Ayden Richardson

November anniversaries

3 - Ronnie and Dena White
17 - Buddy and Carlton Hollis
18 - Randy and Kathy Manning
21 - Travis and Rhonda Rogers
26 - Dwain and Bettye Flowers

