



## **WEEK 2: *Being In Community***

Turn off your computer. You're actually going to have to turn off your phone and discover all that is human around us.

-- Eric Schmidt, Chairman and CEO of Google, Commencement address at the University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2009

We may well find that if we are to fulfill God's mandate on earth, we will need to communicate less often so we can communicate more. We will need to forsake the ease and the pace of quantity for the reflective significance of quality.

-- Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith after the Digital Explosion*

When we log on to the Internet, or lose ourselves in a texting exchange, we become, to varying degrees, different individuals. Unconsciously, we take on a new personality that in some cases bears little resemblance to the one familiar to us from our offline lives.

-- Elias Aboujaoude, MD, *Virtually You: The Dangerous Powers of the E-Personality*

We need trust between congregants and clergy. We need parents who are able to talk with their children. We need children who are given time and protection to experience childhood. We need communities.

-- Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*

Communities are constituted by physical proximity, shared concerns, real consequences, and common responsibilities. Its members help each other in the most practical ways. What real-life responsibilities do we have for those we meet online? Am I my avatar's keeper?

-- Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*

The truth is that text rarely, if ever, can equal the richness of a face-to-face conversation. It's static, disembodied.

-- John Freeman, *The Tyranny of E-Mail*

Just as God powerfully used the medium of the written word, the medium of the printing press, and the medium of the radio, he will use these new electronic media. And so, too, will Satan, who will seek to use them to corrupt and destroy. The challenge for the Christian is to learn to use these media with all the opportunities they bring to speak and to tell of this God who speaks through us.

-- Tim Challies, *The Next Story: Life and Faith after the Digital Explosion*

The screen is by far the best place to get a message out these days, and there's nothing wrong with that. If your message is that people are going overboard with screens, then that's where you need to be, because it's where the most afflicted are.

-- William Powers, *Hamlet's BlackBerry: A Practical Philosophy for building a Good Life in the Digital Age*

And so, we will use podcasts, internet, facebook, twitter and other media to get the message out that we all need less screen time and more face-to-face time, less media mediated relationship and more authentic enflashed community.

-- Bruxy Cavey, Today's Sermon, a few minutes from now

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**

**-- The Apostle Paul, 1 Corinthians 12:27**