

Face Time

Some people claim they can worship God all by themselves. They can; my question is, why they would want to? Some people claim they can work all by themselves. They can; many have begun to question whether they want to.

A University of Maryland study found that many telecommuters miss the office. Community, it appears, trumps the commute and cubicle. A few years ago IBM discovered that about half of its employees worked from home, and that half of them were unhappy. An increased emphasis on parties and sports leagues boosted the feel-good factor to nearly eighty percent.

We need each other. But we don't have each other.

Dr. Lynn Smith-Lovin, a sociologist at Duke, claims in her book *Social Isolation in America* that one-fourth of us have nobody to talk to. Another quarter of the population is only one friend better off than that, and the number of people in this pickle has doubled in the last two decades.

Of course the church should be the answer. The real church is. The real church – as opposed to certain broadcast or podcast or customized imitations – puts us with people until community emerges, often by sinking roots into a spiritual soil richly composted with our own carnality. It is the people of God who make church worth going to in spite of the people of God.

One IBM exec claims that "when someone spends more than three days by themselves at home, they become somewhat disconnected." I can't help noticing that the resurrection honored the same time-frame. Evidently Jesus himself felt that three day sin the tomb was time enough away from his denying and deserting disciples.

En Route ,
Doug