

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 28 – October 5th



Social Media Made Me Sin

valid individual' If you don't understand that language, then your better for it!

Whilst reading a social media post of an Australian minister concerning US election strategy, his opinion contained few facts and less analysis. This does not mean the minister was uninformed, or even that his opinion blossomed without deep analysis, just that none showed. This relates to the medium itself. Social media works best in small memorable zingers. These often don't produce deep reflection, just momentary emotional highs for myself – Oh, I mean my team! Social media furthers rapid fire opinion-making and political point scoring and not deep thought. This forces people into intellectual foxholes, scouting the social media landscape to fire off their latest zinger at a foolish enemy. Social media fixes opinions and positions, leading to rock hard and proud hearts requiring an emotional

I'm entitled to my opinion!' Everyone has opinions and given the world of social media, easy means to express them. Furthermore many feel the need to express those opinion as if the earth's rotation requires it. Most keyboard warriors rarely question the validity of their opinion, as the 'like' button serves as validator. 'Reached a thousand likes, not ratio'd. Great, I'm a

Church Returns

8am Sunday
18th October

Call Adam
on 0457 775 538

29 Spots Remain

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For Whom Do I Work?

by **Kathy Hansen**



whims of man. His management style or slogans don't change. He will not be impressed by those who talk themselves up and chase their own glory

God has always known who will be found worthy. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight (Ephesians 1:4). We are written in the book of life. We cannot be ousted. Ever. No matter who else comes along, or how the world shifts, how fashions and methodologies change, we are his for ever. We are worthy in his sight.

We do not have to appear before God, and run a highlight reel of our life, or convince him how clever we are. We do not have to offer hyperbole for our sin and tell him it gave us an opportunity to be resourceful. God knows intimately our every action, thought and feeling, better than we do. Amazingly, he loves us anyway. He finds us worthy, even though he knows all about us. We do not have to put on our professional face for him.

Imagine if our employer

assessed our performance based on everything we'd ever done, thought and felt at the office. All the petty thoughts, wasted time and shortcuts. All the times we are snappy and unprofessional. What would our performance appraisals be like then?

By Grace God's love for us, our worthiness before God does not depend on our performance at all. It depends wholly on Jesus' performance. Jesus is why we belong to God. Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18).

I have been trying to carry out my job in a Christian way. However, my primary goal at the office, as in every other part of my life, should be to carry out the work God has planned for me. His plan has nothing to do with performance appraisals, or company goals. My job is only a vehicle for what God wants me to do with my life – which is to glorify him; through loving others and growing in my relationship with him. I have been looking at it upside down; I have been seeking to serve God while doing my job, rather than seeking to serve God through doing my job. It's a subtle, but seismic shift in where I place God in my heart, and where I place work in my heart.

Work is the means God has given me to serve him. I am on the right journey, in the right job, for me. More importantly, I am in the right job for God; to do the work he has laid out for me to do. Other people at work can chase their own glory, that's not for me, I am not envious of their path. I am only interested in the glory of God.

I want to shine the light of God before others in my job, to find ways every day to glorify God. I do not yet know how I will do that. I am prayerfully considering it; to find a way that is right for me, that honours God. It will be fun to work it out. There will still be the day to day difficulties, frustrations and challenges of my professional role; I will overcome; my purpose in God is stronger than that. I have the strongest motivation there is to do my job – one that is not at all concerned with my own achievements. I have a new deep contentment in the mission ahead; in where God has put me right here, right now, to carry it out with joy and vigour, with perseverance and love, for him. I am happy with my performance appraisal. After all, it reminded me that God has already pronounced me worthy, through Jesus Christ. For whom do I go to work every day? For God.

Recently I had a performance appraisal at work. Usually they leave me feeling buoyed, encouraged, valued. This year, due to numerous changes, it left me feeling undervalued, demotivated, and bitter.

I loathe doing the self assessment. Dredging up highlights. Presenting mistakes as opportunities to develop problem solving skills.

I am not defined by where my employer ranks me. I am defined by Jesus. That thought gave me strength, but the negative feelings remained.

God's performance appraisal of us is not subject to the changing

win to fix an addiction. Cultural relativism turns opinions into unassailable truths requiring intractable defences. Not the most fertile ground for Christian growth.

Opinions serve their place in genuine conversations, but without truth they become meaningless nonsense. Social media turns opinions into cheap political point scoring, instead of highlighting incomplete ideas requiring deeper reflection. Rapid fire opinion-making rarely produces godliness, often producing more heat than light. Though social media

fuels entrenched opinions, the culture enflames this reality through its own fact-free opinion making. Social media might have intensified the heat, but we all feel entitled to our opinion and stubbornly hold onto them as if our very lives depend upon it.

Christianity requires reflection for growth in godliness. Kathy's article this week provides a wonderful example of deep reflection leading to Christian growth. Somber reflection allows Christians to discover the true enemy hiding in our opinions. Jonathon Edwards reveals this enemy better than I ever could:

Remember, that pride is the worst

viper that is in the heart, the greatest disturber of the soul's peace, and of sweet communion with Christ: it was the first sin committed, and lies lowest in the foundation of Satan's whole building, and is with the greatest difficulty rooted out, and is the most hidden, secret, and deceitful of all lusts, and often creeps insensibly into the midst of religion, even, sometimes, under the disguise of humility itself.

Fighting this enemy requires time and softness of heart. Characteristics sorely lacking in much of contemporary culture, and seldomly if ever promoted in social media. But have we made time to discover this enemy often disguised within our own opinions?

Find-A-Word - Identity

Christian	Intellectual	Promote	Somber
Ephesians	Keyboard	Rapid	Stubborn
Frustration	Media	Reflection	Work
Generate	Methodology	Resource	
Hyperbole	Monotonous	Seek	
Incomplete	Performance	Social	

F K Y O D E T E L P M O C N I K
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 H D Q D R A O B Y E K B L X B
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 P P C T H V Z R E S O U R C E
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PRAYER POINTS



Please send through points for yourself. I will also pick up points from around Barneys to place here if others feel comfortable sharing.

- Give thanks for the ability to return to Church on the 18th of October. Pray that we will continue to encourage each other in the Lord as we begin services over the coming weeks.