



Connecting in Our Technological World

In our world of Facebook, Twitter, Skype, email, and all of its technological advancements, there are some things that only a human can give: a hug, a pat on the back, a touch of the hand, and the simple act of being engaged with one another face-to-face. Paul sets a good example when he wrote about the apostles accepting him and Barnabas as fellow missionaries in Galatians 2:9: “...*they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me...*”

In many ways, technology keeps us apart. Instead of picking up the phone and calling one another, it is just easier to send someone a text. Coffee time formerly spent with a friend is now becoming a Twitter volley of back-and-forth comments. Texting is a wonderful tool when a meeting is cancelled or someone is late, but personal thoughts are received better face-to-face.

Decades ago, ladies met in churches as a social group. They **wanted** to get together to talk and to smile at one another, to share their friendship in person. They also used this time for service by making quilts, sharing mission emphasis, and cooking dinners for the needy.

Loneliness is an issue facing many women today. Do you know women who work full-time outside the home, plus have children to feed, educate, and care for? How many of these women are single mothers trying to do it all alone? Are there older women in your neighborhood or community whose children and other family members live out-of-state? In a room full of people, at work, or even in church, loneliness can still haunt people. Let's get together and share our celebrations, as well as our cares!

You've heard the rallying cry: “less meeting and more meaning!” This is certainly true. **But** that does not mean we should forego a simple gathering together. Perhaps invite women to a “no-stress” event with no minutes and no correspondence, simply studying God's Word and sharing. (Yes, you **can** have a gathering and “just” study God's Word!) To ensure even more fellowship, plan it as a dessert night or as an hors d'oeuvres night, sharing recipes to break the ice. Schedule a sing-along event; Psalm 149:1b says, *Sing ... his praise in the assembly of the godly!* Talk to one another face-to-face, touch a heart with a simple touch of the hand.

Whether you call it a meeting, an assembly, or a gathering, there are lonely people in our lives who need God's Word and fellowship. Take a night off once in a while for yourself, too, and enjoy your sisters in Christ. Call and offer a ride so no one will need to enter the room alone.

In this technologically-driven world, we forego hours of much-needed face-to-face interaction by staring at a screen for hours and hours each day, losing touch with each other, forgetting the necessity of fellowship. In Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) we read: *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

God blesses us with the gift of technology to use as a communication tool here in the twenty-first century, but let's remember to also reach out and **really** touch someone.