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THE NEED FOR ONE ANOTHERING

ILLUSTRATION:

¹We are tempted to think that our little "sips" of online connection add up to a big gulp of real conversation. But they don't. E-mail, Twitter, Facebook, all of these have their places But no matter how valuable, they do not substitute for conversation. Connecting in sips may work for gathering discrete bits of information or for saying, "I am thinking about you" But connecting in sips doesn't work as well when it comes to understanding and knowing one another.

We expect more from technology and less from one another and seem increasingly drawn to technologies that provide the illusion of companionship without the demands of relationship. Always-on/always-on-you devices provide three powerful fantasies: that we will always be heard; that we can put our attention wherever we want it to be; and that we never have to be alone. Indeed our new devices have turned being alone into a problem that can be solved. When people are alone, even for a few moments, they fidget and reach for a device Our constant, reflexive impulse to connect shapes a new way of being. Think of it as "I share, therefore I am."

1. RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God. – Romans 15:7

2. ESTEEM ONE ANOTHER

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. – Philippians 2:3

3. CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER

¹ Sherry Turkle, "The Flight from Conversation," *The New York Times Sunday Review*, (4-21-12)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. –
Hebrews 10:24

4. EDIFY ONE ANOTHER

*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things
wherewith one may edify another. – Romans 14:19*

5. EXHORT ONE ANOTHER

*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened
through the deceitfulness of sin. – Hebrews 3:13*

6. ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER

*And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of
goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. – Romans
15:14*

7. SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. – Ephesians 5:21