

How would Jesus do it?
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As followers of Jesus, we are called to be “in” the world and not “of” the world. In terms of our relationship to the world we live in, Christians are to be totally in the midst of all that happens in the world while resisting the menacing power and pull of the world’s enticements.

The challenge we face is for the modern church to remain modern and not compromise its’ values or its’ missional impact. Some churches are more “modern” than Christian. On the other side, too many of God’s people are out of touch with the Google world in which we live.

One of the greatest struggles in churches today arises from efforts to preserve the past while laboring to minister to the future. The past shapes our future, but if we focus only on what has been, we will become a museum. On the other hand, any faith that chooses to ignore its’ past, sacrifices depth for charm. The challenge for us is to share the strength of that old time religion in the language of today.

We don’t need to ask the question: “Would Jesus want us to work to ease the burdens for the poor? Or, would Jesus want us to make new disciples and evangelize? Or, would Jesus want us to plant new communities of faith?” Of course He would! We don’t need to ask those questions. Jesus wants us to be “in” the world.

But Jesus doesn’t want us to be “out of touch” in the world. That’s why we should not only ask “What Would Jesus Do?”, but, “How would Jesus do it?” “How would Jesus do things in 2009?” Would Jesus be on Facebook? Probably so. Would Jesus send text messages? I imagine. Would Jesus be on twitter? More than likely.

If you think about it, Jesus himself mastered the cutting edge technology of first century communication. In a population where at most 5% could read, could Jesus read? Yes. He read in the temple. In a population where less that 3% could write, could Jesus write? Yes. Scriptures tell us He wrote in the sand. Jesus was up on the latest means of communication and wants us to be as well. We need to be if we are to communicate effectively with today’s generation. But Jesus also warns us about the dangers of getting caught up in being of the world as we communicate.

So if you’re on Facebook, or if you are texting or twittering, are you Facebooking, texting, or tweating according to the world’s question of “What are You Doing?” or to other questions like, “What are you Paying Attention to?” or “For Whom are You Praying?” or “What can you share with others?”

Jesus wants us to be in the world and making a difference in the world. We can only do this by making sure we are not “out of it” or “of it.”
