

*For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.*

*Psalm 36:9*

# *the* LifeWord

with Michael Green



October 24, 2008

Dear Friends:

## **TWO-FACED BOOK**

A well meaning friend recently gave me a tour of the Face Book/MySpace sociology experiments. For those still in FEMA trailers without internet connections, these destinations are where kids, and even some adults, in a 21st Century version of the old party line, share pictures of their dogs and vacations, tell what they had for breakfast or rant about their interests. In this spread out world, some families use it to keep connected with their kids. Even business, school and church groups are getting into the trend. Some pages are elaborate, innocent and fun loving while some seem to use it as an opportunity to develop new personas in this synthetic orbit.

The big deal is to list all your friends and to see who has the bigger list of *"friends"*. To the *"Eleanor Rigby"* lonely and for the *"Nosy Rosie's"* in the crowd, it's a veritable buffet feast of information as well as a voracious time eating machine. God bless 'em if it floats their boat, but I'm wondering, *"How does anyone find enough time to keep up with all of this stuff? Or, Aren't some of you a bit too old to be on some 16 year olds' buddy list?"* Whatever the answer, I did learn a few interesting things.

Connecting people is only 2 or 3 clicks away and as a bonus, you get a quick tutorial on who folks wish to identify as their friends.

While scrolling down one list and a familiar face popped up. This dear one, with a proven *"monkey wrench"* ministry and a legendary gift of gossip, made the next few moments tragically interesting. With the next click, we met the friends.

That click was a Technicolor Testimony further confirming my hypothesis of who was connected. Bad memories facilitated the remembrance of heartache, courtesy the members of the network who grinned back from the screen.

Jesus said, in today words, *"By the fruit they bring forth, you'll know what sort of tree they are hooked into."* Solomon warned, *"Bad manners corrupt good character."* We've always heard, *"Be careful how you pick your friends"*. In this case, *"Your friends will tell us about you."*

We really need to be thoughtful about those we want to identify as our friends and our fellowship network as we walk this planet. The choice is critical, especially in

these troubled times. Those choices can help raise us up or they can facilitate our downfall. In the selection process, we need Holy Spirit discernment. To survive this world, we need to surround ourselves with those who will walk in faith, encouragement and truthfulness.

If you don't know what to do with your extra time, try volunteering for a place of Kingdom service at your church and consider leaving the party line networking to the kids unless they are yours. Then, find some friends in your age group or just get a puppy.

If renowned Hymnologist, Fanny Crosby were alive today, her posted home page mantra would likely be her famous, powerful words, *"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"*. A life-giving thought. You will never be ashamed to let the world know that HE is your Friend of Friends! HE is that faithful, loving Friend who will rejoice in your successes, stand with you in the tough times and will not sell you down the river.

*Michael*

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