

# THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

**SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY**

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## **"ANTISOCIAL MEDIA"**

The more teens are involved in social media such as Facebook, Twitter and the like the more it seems dangers lurk in proximity. From the perspective of someone who discusses mental and spiritual health on a daily basis, I find electronic social networks provide little in the way of healthy friendship bonds, and much in the way of danger to self-esteem. It is not a good situation when people are hugely concerned about how "liked" they are; it reinforces the sinful flesh's pride.

Consensus is an awful way to live one's life, especially when as a Christian we are not to take the World's opinion as our marching orders. Not only teens, but far too many Christian adults are beholden to a nebulous cloud of opinions on everything ranging from their appearance to their moral decisions. *Christianity is not lived by consensus.* It is lived with an emphasis on pleasing One, namely God. The opinions of the World should have marginal impact on Christians. Yet, we see especially teens succumbing to peer pressure – pressure, and pain, that is *self-inflicted by their willing involvement!*

Katie Couric recently reported on a 13 year old girl who was lured away from her home as she was secretly messaging an 18 year old student. The boy and his 19 year old female accomplice are suspected of killing her. In the article Couric interviews girls, and there is a telling exchange. One of the girls said, "Social media is destroying our lives." To which Couric suggested, "So, why don't you just go off it?" The girl's response is telling, "Because then I would have no life." What is the definition of insanity, doing the same ineffective things over and over? (See article: "Inside the Secret World of Teens and Social Media")

The only forms of "socializing" I do online are posts on forums and email. It is not uncommon for people to spend *hours every day* maintaining such links! I suppose that puts me soundly out of touch with popular opinion. Superb! *I do not care to have popular opinion determining how I feel about myself and my actions.* As you can guess, I feel fine about myself because I am a child of God, and my family and church family loves me unconditionally with Agape love, God's love. I have little desire to impress or bow to the whims of an electronic cohort.

Do you want your child to have a healthy self-image and to act independently of peer pressure to conform to Secularism? I suggest you model Christian *immunity* from the quagmire of social media, and that you monitor their activity if they are on it. Do not consider it "harmless" and without potential to adversely affect your child.

**2016**

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### **TRY TO LOVE STATISTICS**

Statistics are just numbers. Boring, right? Yes, they can be when it comes to the "crunching" part, but when it comes to the predictive power of numbers, they can be fascinating. It seems incredible that the Lord has given mankind such knowledge (Note, there is a great difference between knowledge and *wisdom*, as wisdom is a spiritually derived form of knowledge) so as to make computers, which allow us to develop the science of statistics. Statistics tell us such things as how fast a country is growing or declining, how long we might be expected to live, and what the odds are of a certain event taking place.

It is that last one, the probability of an event, that figures largely in my discussions on the topic of Origins. I love statistics because they *soundly refute Evolutionary Theory, to the point of showing that anyone who holds to it does so out of an emotional, not intellectual commitment*. Just today on Yahoo.com News I saw an article entitled, "Out of 700 Quintillion Other Planets, Earth Might Be Totally Unique". How do scientists arrive at that conclusion? They use statistics! They estimate the number of total planets, and through a filter of criteria considered necessary for a planet to host life, they arrive at the number, in this case between 40-49 billion planets.

The unsuitability of other planets for life is not news to those who have been keeping up on the subject. In 2004 Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay W. Richards in their groundbreaking book The Privileged Planet showed through massive amounts of data that Earth is *unique* – not just rare, but utterly singular. The odds against another "Earth" out there are *beyond astronomical*.

Darwinists hate things like that! They want to *believe* that critters can morph into other critters because it makes humans look so smart for supposedly figuring out how things work, and/or because they don't want to have Anyone to whom they are accountable. But, numbers are terribly stubborn things, and they tend to portray reality, as a vast majority of those who have played the Lotto have found out (I don't gamble; I like odds in my favor, not against me)

Evolutionary theory *kills scientific progress*. It is a decade after publication, and following an effort to submerge the work of Gonzalez and Richards, now Darwinists are also reaching the confounding conclusion that they were right – the odds are so high against the myriad of beneficial conditions here on Earth accidentally occurring elsewhere that it probably hasn't happened. As a Christian I smile when I hear things like that, because it leads directly to the conclusion that the Earth was designed. *But don't count on Darwinists to reach that conclusion, as obvious as it is! They will turn their theory inside out in an attempt to make it accommodate the nasty numbers. And, they will fail as they always do, long term.*

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