

# 1Minute with 1Vision

## Mom Almost Invented Twitter

I was thinking about social media the other day. And I couldn't help but think about Mom's sewing 'Circle.' (Are you familiar with knitting or craft gatherings?) It's an old concept with incredibly current applications.

The similarities gave me some great insight into how we should act. Read on...

- **Anybody can show up.** There is no entrance fee, exam or set of qualifications that admit you to social media or to the circle.
- **Anybody can claim to be anything.** Some (I've been told) hold themselves out as experts – yet there are many with more talent and experience. Generally, the loudest ones aren't the most popular. Sometimes the wisest ones say very little.
- **The outcome isn't that important.** In Mom's sewing circle, the goal is not to produce baby blankets at break-neck speed. They wanted to socialize. "Did you see what she was wearing at the party?" "Did you hear the latest about \_\_\_\_\_?" Sounds a lot like Twitter, doesn't it?

A sense of community has been with us since the days of Adam. We formed towns to be closer to one another and to share our stories. Belonging to something greater helps give us security and meaning. (At least, that's what my sociology courses might have taught me... had I gone.)

Does a Facebook page give us meaning? In a sense. It connects us with our "tribe." **It is this generation's soda shop or card club – with both good and not so good capacities.** And what made them places people wanted to hang out should give us clues about how we should act in today's social media.

Can we take our social media advice from Robert Fulghum's piece, ***All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten***? Here are the first seven paraphrased: 1. Share every toy and game. 2. Play fair. 3. Don't hit people. 4. Put things back where you found them. 5. Clean up your own mess. 6. Don't take things that aren't yours. 7. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

(I'm still trying to work in my personal favorite, 'Take a nap every afternoon.')



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President

P.S. Before you feel compelled to call me out as a genderist, all this easily applies to men's poker night, that hunting/fishing expedition and especially fantasy baseball groups.