**Instructor Assigned Essay or Project**

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SR 968-22: Sociological Methodology: Interpreting Changing Cultures

December 7, 2024

**Proposed Topic:**
*The Role of Technology in Shaping Modern Communication: Theological and Sociological Perspectives on Digital Interaction*

**Draft Outline:**

1. **Introduction**
	* Discuss the rise of digital communication platforms and their transformative impact on human interaction.
	* Present the focus on theological concepts like "community" and sociological concepts like "connectivity."
2. **Key Concepts**
	* **Community:** Define community from a theological perspective, emphasizing biblical ideas of fellowship.
	* **Connectivity:** Explore the sociological implications of being constantly connected in the digital age.
3. **Sub-concepts**
	* **Isolation:** Address the paradox of feeling isolated despite being connected.
	* **Authenticity:** Explore challenges to authentic communication in digital spaces.
4. **Biblical Passages**
	* Analyze passages about fellowship and communication (e.g., Acts 2:42-47, James 1:19).
	* Discuss the significance of truth in communication as reflected in Ephesians 4:15.
5. **Secular Studies**
	* Reference studies on social media’s impact on mental health and relationships (e.g., Sherry Turkle's *Alone Together*).
	* Highlight sociological research on digital communities and their limitations.
6. **Contemporary Applications**
	* Examine real-world examples such as the prevalence of social media and online forums.
	* Address the impact of technology on traditional face-to-face interaction.
7. **Contribution to Christian Thought**
	* Offer insights into how Christians can foster meaningful community in digital spaces.
	* Propose ways to integrate spiritual values into online communication practices.
8. **Contribution to Sociological Thought**
	* Provide new perspectives on the balance between digital and physical interactions.
	* Suggest strategies to mitigate the negative effects of digital communication while enhancing its benefits.