**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.