

“Virtual Reality”?

by Wayne Goff

“**Virtual reality** (VR) refers to a computer-generated simulation in which a person can interact within an artificial three-dimensional environment using electronic devices, such as special goggles with a screen or gloves fitted with sensors.” So when it comes to these games, one is envisioning an “*unreal* reality” – the better the VR experience, the more “real” and “life-like” it seems. But no matter how good the experience, it is **NOT** reality.

“**Virtual**” is “something that exists in the mind, exists in essence but not in fact.” An example of this is an imaginary friend. Some children invent an imaginary friend and it seems real to them, but of course it is not, and in time the “friend” goes away.

“**Virtual assembling**” for the church is when everyone “attends”(?) online, but we must always remember that it is not actually “assembling”! There has been some debate about this, especially when it comes to taking the Lord’s Supper in the “virtual assembly,” but the very definition of it is that it is an **unreal** assembly. It is only a **substitute** for the true assembly, and is done under times of duress, as we have seen in the past year. By the way, businesses, public schools and universities have also developed “online classes,” and while a dedicated student can learn this way, it is difficult and socially unfulfilling. Businesses and schools have learned this over the past year, and so there is a great effort to get students back to “in person” (real) classes. People are *negatively affected* by the **total absence** of togetherness, and this should not be surprising to the Christian who knows that he and all mankind were made in God’s image, and that God is a social Being! He made us to be social as well. Remember **Genesis 2:18**? “*It is not good that man should be alone....*” This truth is not only true in the home and family, it is also true in society. We are all part of one another in this world, in this country, and in this circumstance. The sooner we realize this, the sooner we will begin to mend the broken relationships caused by a year’s seclusion.

So get out there and make some “**friends**”! Develop some “**friendships**”! “*A man who has **friends** must himself be **friendly**, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother,*” **Proverbs 18:24**. Is there anything more sad than someone who has **no** friends?! Something is seriously wrong with such a one. Don’t be like that, but rather be like God who loves all men and benevolently cares for them every day!

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