

Why Social Media Died: A Blog Post I Apparently Sent to Myself from the Year 2040.

Guest Post by [Jon Forrest](#)

This is crazy. Apparently sometime in the future, we figure out how to send mediocre blog posts back to the past! I know! It shocked me too. It just showed up in my cloud. You should totally check yours. It looks to be from around the year 2040. Good news: the fonts are still pretty much the same. Bad news: my writing doesn't improve one little bit. (allegedly)

I know most of you were hoping never to be reminded of the social media era again, but I think it's important for us to remember our past mistakes or else we are doomed to repeat them.

For those of you young and fortunate enough not to remember the "Enlightened Dark Age" as we know it today let me give you a little refresher. Not long after the advent of smart phones, the age of social media began. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (now known as Uresource) ruled the lives of the masses.

It seems ridiculous now but these sites were platforms where people could say things like, "I'm totes dreading the dentist tomorrow." Then the next day they could post a picture of themselves with their mouths full of gauze. Please don't ask me why we did it. The old days were weird. Remember this is before Dan Cathy and I became best friends and I automated *Chick-fil-A* on that one day so it could open on Sundays after church. It was my pleasure. But yeah, we had it rough. They were indeed the bad ole days.

Here are 5 of the reasons it mercifully, finally, thankfully failed.

1. It was an absolutely false representation of our real selves.

I remember when and where I was when I realized social media was doomed. Back in 2018 we had a fast food place called Sonic. We drove cars back then and the unique thing about this restaurant was you could drive your car to small station and hit a button to order your food and have it brought to you by a carhop. They were known for their delicious ice. Yes. Back before we all had dihydrogen monoxide units strapped to our backs we had to drink liquids. We also ate frozen pellets of water for fun. And Sonic had the absolute best frozen pellets.

One hot June day in 2018 when I pulled in and ordered a diet cherry limeade (too much to explain) I saw a girl sitting at one of the tables taking a selfie. "Selfie" is slang for taking a picture of yourself. Selfies were a huge part of social media. This girl at the Sonic took a picture, looked at it with disgust, reposed and took another one. She did this 4 times! She looked so unhappy sitting there with her friend who was also on her phone, but in the selfie her smile beamed as she got the light just right for "exposure's" sake.

It's impossible not to compare this girl's actions to Narcissus who appeared in Greek mythology. We get our idea of Narcism from him. He was so pretty, one day when he saw his reflection in a pool he was unable to leave the reflected image to continue life. Ultimately he died in that exact spot.

This 2018 Sonic version of Narcissus who couldn't look away from her image was telling people "I'm having a blast here at the Sonic while you live your miserable thirsty life in shambles." The crazy thing is we all bought it for 20 years! Social media survived this "emperor's new clothes" lie for 20 years. I can't explain it. I'm just so thankful some enlightened soul spoke up one day and said, "Hey, y'all know this chick we're all jealous of is basically just eating a

corn dog at the Sonic like the rest of us. Why are we wasting our time 'liking' it?"

2. We got tired of making photo ops instead of memories and cameras can't do memories justice.

I do not have a picture of my wife when they opened the back doors of the church and I saw her standing there arm in arm with her dad, but it would not do that moment justice if I did. There was no videographer in the room when the nurse handed my daughter to me for the first time, but I promise if I had a video of that occasion I'd say, "They missed it. That's not even close to what I felt that day."

Sure we can see things in 5d QR Crystal Lens now, but even that is like looking through a filthy foggy window compared to the resolution of our minds. God blessed us with that. I'm so glad we realized it sooner than later. I'm just sorry we wasted two decades of memories.

3. Although we all enjoy the right to freedom of the press, not all of us should exercise that right.

How do I put this gently? Many of the people I knew in 2018 had ideas that were insane. I'm not talking about my close friends who read my blogs. Those guys... geniuses, but most of the other people who posted on social media were wackos. No, they had wacko ideas in a moment and they shared them.

Proverbs 17:28 is so right. "Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered

perceptive.” (NKJV) Back in 2018 NO ONE shut his lips and we were all dumber for it.

4. FOML finally caught up with FOMO.

In 2004 Patrick J. McGinnis coined the term “FOMO.” Steady yourself. This isn’t going to make sense to you. FOMO is the fear of missing out. We were slaves to these platforms to the point of being unable to stand in line, ride in a car, or simply sit in a chair without looking at our device. Constant checking overtook us. “Finally awake. I better check Facebook.” “Break time. I better refresh my Instagram feed.” “Red light. Wonder what’s on Snap.” “I’m between contractions. Let me update Twitter.”

This is actually one of my posts from 2017. “Just got stung in the belly by a wasp. Not sure if it’s swollen or if I’ve put on a few lbs.” Someone neglected a sunset because he was afraid he’d miss out on that nugget of nonsense.

Fortunately at some point we replaced the “fear of missing out” with of the “fear of missing life.” We looked up from the recipe video our neighbor posted and took our neighbor a plate of cookies. We shut our laptops and topped our laps with the kids we had been yelling at for not holding the pose we needed to get for a post. We laid down our notebook and took note of the books including THE Book that had gathered dust.

We took back life.

5. We finally all blocked one another.

You know I’d love to be able to say we experienced this great renaissance of knowledge and that’s the sole reason social media collapsed, but truthfully we all finally got so sick of

one another's baloney we each ended up blocking everyone except 4 followers. And it turned out those 4 remaining "followers" were fake accounts we'd set up to like our posts.

Whoa! Look at the time.

There are a couple of other reasons social media ended but I have to get back to work. This country isn't going to run its self. I probably wouldn't have agreed to this 4th term if I'd known it would be this busy. Not to mention these people from Time apparently need a new picture every time you win "Person of the Year." And I have a Kessel run today and only 8 parsecs to do it in.

If I can get this time bending copy machine to load the stupid paper and you're reading this before 2021 when social media meets its demise, do yourself a favor, beat the crowd and start to ween yourself off of it today.

(Editor's Note: A big thanks to Jon Forrest for allowing us to run this post today. You can read more of his stuff over at [Steal My Youth Ministry Stuff](#). Trust us, you will love it.)