



March 2020

Dear Friends,

You've probably all heard it said that women can multi-task (and that men can't) and to a certain extent I have always believed that to be true. Not necessarily because of some inborn natural ability but because women have usually been the ones who have had to multi-task. Throughout history they're the ones who did the cooking, cleaning, mending and making while at the same time looking after 'their children and menfolk — keeping a weather eye on them to make sure they don't run into danger, listening for them and to them, talking with them or simply giving them a big hug when needed.

Teenagers and young people seem to be very good at multi-tasking. They appear to be able to watch T.V., while also texting one friend and catching up with others on their laptop. Perhaps it's a sign of the times and of their grasp of modern technology. They would no doubt say that in doing so they are able to keep in good contact with all their friends around the country with many channels of communication being open and used at once. Although I can see the merit of this argument I can also see the downside. Yes, modern technology can keep people in touch with each other 24/7 but I think they have also lost something too.

In the book of Genesis we read that God said that it was not good for Adam to be alone, he therefore created Eve. Whether you believe this to be an accurate account of the creation of mankind or not doesn't matter. What it highlights is the fact that we are not meant to live in isolation — we can only function as human beings if we can create and sustain proper relationships, and I don't believe that we can do that without personal and attentive contact. Personal contact beats technology contact hands down.

Whether it be with old friends or new acquaintances we all need to be able to look people in the eye as we talk to them, we need to be able to hear what they say and know that they can hear us, we also need to be in a position where we can note their facial reactions or body language and they ours. I believe that it's only then that we can really become moved or even involved in other peoples life stories and they ours.

So take the opportunity to see friends and family. Socialise and interact in person and remember that even though there are times when we might think we are alone, there is someone who will always be there for us when we want to talk, to listen or simply feel that we are not alone and that's the greatest "multi tasker" of all — Jesus Christ.

*Rev'd Nicki*