

Looking Back at the 00s
The I-Rock Decade
January 23/24, 2010

I'm so much cooler online – aren't you?

As Shannon said, we're in the second week of this series "Looking Back at the 00s" – looking back at the events and trends that happened in the first decade of this century that shape how we live today. And if you want evidence of how quickly things have changed in our world, just ten years ago that song would have been gibberish because ten years ago no one had ever heard of MySpace ... or Facebook or YouTube or Twitter or Flickr or blogging or anything else of the sort.

That was then ... but during the 00s, online communication grew and grew to the point where, today, we are collectively spending 13.9 billion minutes per year on Facebook and 5 billion minutes per year on MySpace. Last year alone, Twitter usage grew at a rate of more than 3,700%, taking up a total of 300 million minutes of our collective time. These days, anyone with a computer can post, blog, tweet, and upload as much as they want *for free*. And millions of us are doing just that.

In fact, I'm curious – let's take a little survey.

- How many people here today have a Facebook or MySpace page?
- How many here have your own blog and you do that on a regular basis?
- How many of you here have ever uploaded a video of yourself, friends or family to YouTube, raise your hand.
- Anyone ever tweeted via Twitter? (Does that make you a tweeter or a twit?)

By the way, researchers have performed what's called a "complex cluster analysis" of thousands and thousands of tweets and determined that Twitterers (which is the correct term for those who do that kind of thing) fall into one of two categories. They are either *meformers* or *informers*. *Meformers*, as the term implies, communicate primarily about themselves – "let me tell you about me". *Informers* communicate helpful information – stats, quotes, links to articles – that are not about themselves.

Want to guess what percent of tweeting is *meforming* and what percent is *informing*? It's the old 80-20 rule.

80% of Twitter users are *meformers*; a mere 20% are *informers*.¹

And that same ratio pretty much holds true across the spectrum of online communication. Most of what is posted, blogged, tweeted and uploaded is about *me*: what I think, what I like, what I want, what I'm doing and what I hope to do. *I am* the star of the show because *I rock* ... and through the magic of the Internet, I can let the whole world read, listen and see exactly why I rock.

In fact, have you noticed that the tagline for YouTube is Broadcast Yourself.

And I think that's a good way of describing this whole phenomenon whether we're bloggers or posters or tweeters or all of the above. It's about you. You're the star. So broadcast yourself.

Broadcasting Ourselves

Now, you may or may not be aware of this, but there is a great debate raging these days among psychologists and social scientists as to whether or not this is a good thing. Some say "it is good", some say "it's debatable" and some are convinced that "it's a bad thing." Let's take a look at why.

1. Those who argue that this is a good thing would say that ... "it's helpful and entertaining."

It's helpful they would argue because ordinary people now have the ability to communicate about important things that are happening all over the world that no one else would ever know about.

And that's very true. Just think of all the information pouring out of Haiti right now. Ten years ago, we would know almost nothing – only what the governments or professional news media would choose to let us know. But that's all changed.

In fact, because of the ability to broadcast ourselves, we know things today that *some* governments don't *want* us to know. As an example, I'm going to show you a picture of a person and you see if you can tell me who it is and why this person is noteworthy.

Here she is.

Does anybody know who she is and why she's noteworthy? She was from Iran. She was the lady who was killed.

Let's add another picture, one we're more familiar with, a very sad picture. That's Neda Agha-Soltan ...

... the young Iranian woman who was murdered by police in Tehran following the rigged election last fall.

The uploaded video footage of her bleeding to death on the street *literally* made the *whole world* aware of the barbarism of the Iranian regime and may one day turn out to be the tipping point where that regime began to lose its power over the people. Ten years ago that kind of reporting just did not happen.

So, obviously, this ability to "broadcast ourselves" is a good thing because it's helpful in many ways.

From a much lighter perspective, some would say, it's a good thing because it's just fun, its entertaining. I mean you can have a lot of fun with this, especially on the video side.

And if you're going to talk about the fun/entertainment value of this, you have to begin with *American Idol* which

obviously isn't broadcasting *yourself*. But, in many ways, *Idol* was the original and literal "I Rock" show because it showed us ordinary people trying to be stars. "You think you can sing? OK we'll put you on TV and then let the judges and let the people decide." It's been a huge success. Wildly successful.

And if you watch the show, you know sometimes the singers are really good. And sometimes they're ... well ... just watch:

Video – "Pants on the Ground": *American Idol* original

How many of you have seen that?

Turns out Simon was right. Through the magic of YouTube it *did* become an instant hit as hundreds and maybe even thousands of potential stars recorded their own version of the song and posted it. Check out this version – and pay close attention to the surroundings of the artist.

From the basement of his parent's house, ladies and gentlemen, I give you the next Dave Matthews.

Ok, one more version of "pants on the ground," since we're kind of having fun with this. And this one is really cute and really entertaining, proving that, because of the "I Rock" decade, anyone of any age can become a star.

By the way, this "Pants on the Ground" thing has gone viral – it has a life of its own. You can now even buy Pants on the Ground T-shirts.

I ordered these on E-Bay last night.

No, I didn't. Just kidding. I'm too cheap for that.

2. Another assessment as to the value of broadcasting ourselves is that "it's a good thing because it's another way to connect with people" (which is obviously something all human beings need).

However, there is pretty heated debate in the literature as to whether or not people really *are* connecting with others in a *meaningful* way.

Some social scientists say that being able to post the mundane details of our lives helps us to stay in touch with people who care about us. Others argue that the nature of much of what gets posted is so trivial as to be useless in developing true connection.

We're not going to get into that debate today because, in two weeks, Irving is going to speak about the relational aspect of online social networking phenomenon. And so, we'll leave it to him to sort out.

Instead, I want to move to final assessment – a strong concern that's being raised by many psychologists and cultural observers – and spend some time talking about this because I think they're on to something.

The concern is that the explosion of the "I Rock" usage of the Internet over the past 10 years is ...

3. A bad thing because it's evidence that our culture is becoming even more narcissistic.

I'll define that word in detail in just a few minutes, but first let me explain why this is such a concern.

Last October, in an article called "Twitter and YouTube: Unexpected Consequences of the Self-Esteem Movement?" The Psychiatric Times reported that "in a study of 35,000 Americans, interviews conducted to determine the frequency of narcissistic traits demonstrated that only 3% of individuals over age 60 met criteria for narcissistic personality disorder but that 9% of those in their 20s did."²

That's kind of complicated so here's what that looks like on a graph so you can see what they're saying, what they found.

The youth of America are three times more narcissistic than their grandparents!

What's fascinating about this is that the younger people intuitively *know* that this is true... and they know part of the reason why. Recently, USA Today reported that ...

College students [themselves] say they believe their generation is the most narcissistic of all and *social networking* makes them more narcissistic.

Close to 1,100 students were asked: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My generation of young people is more self-promoting, narcissistic, overconfident and attention-seeking than previous generations"?

Here are the results

Two-thirds said their generation was more self-promoting, narcissistic, overconfident and attention-seeking than the ones who have come before." And 57% of those interviewed said their peers used social networking sites such as MySpace, FaceBook and Twitter for self-promotion, narcissism and attention-seeking.³

Commenting on this survey, the Psychiatric Times said:

The prevailing assumption is that everyone has something to say that is worthy of the attention of the masses. This is a generation screaming for attention and recognition, seeking their promised "15 minutes of fame."⁴

Now, if it sounds like I'm just dumping on everyone 30 and under, rest assured I'm not. This is not just a young person's problem because where the youth of our culture go is where we're all going to go eventually. That's how it works. That's how it has always worked. All of us, not just the young people in this country, are becoming more and more narcissistic ...

... which means it's probably time to define that word a bit more clearly.

The official mental disorder manual says narcissism is "a pervasive pattern of grandiosity (look how great I am), the

need for admiration (tell me how great I am), and a lack of empathy (who gives a rip about you).” That’s what narcissism is in the mental disorder manual.

Robert Emmons, professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, writes that “Narcissism is characterized by a sense of excessive self-importance, arrogance, vanity and need for admiration and entitlement.”

“People who exhibit these traits,” he continues, “believe they are entitled to special rights and privileges, whether earned or not...Narcissistic personalities tend to be demanding and selfish. They possess an exaggerated sense of deserving and expect special favors without assuming reciprocal responsibilities ...”⁵

Another author writes ...

“A narcissist feeds off other people who hurl back at him an image that he projects to them. This is their sole function in his world: to reflect, to admire, to applaud, to detest - in a word, to assure him he exists.”⁶

If you’ve ever watched *The Office*, that’s what is going on with the character of Michael Scott. And it’s true of all narcissists because a narcissist *uses people* to get what *they* need. They use people to get what they need.

Now, can you see how this “I Rock” decade could produce an increase in narcissism? We post, blog, tweet and upload ... and then we watch and wait to see how many people admire, applaud or detest our post, blog, tweet and upload.

In fact, I recently came across an interesting diagram ...



... that claims that Twitter is the intersection of ADHD, stalking and narcissism.

That’s just a joke, somebody just made that up. But there’s an element of truth to it. I recently came across a posting entitled “Why I Quit Twitter.” The author wrote:

If you’ve never been a self-centered person, Twitter will make you one. Even the terminology feeds into narcissism: on Twitter, you don’t have *friends* like you do on Facebook. You have “followers,” like you’re some cult leader all of a sudden. Yeah, let me guess—the Brotherhood of What-I’m-Having-For-Dinner.⁷

Now, I know that at this point, someone could say, “Oh, come on Rick. Just because I post on YouTube or I have Facebook page or I tweet doesn’t mean I’m narcissistic. It doesn’t mean I’m *using people* to get what I need.”

And maybe that’s true. But let me ask you a question. Why do you do it? What are you hoping to get out of it? What are you hoping to get back? When you post something you think is really funny and no one posts a smiley back or when you post something that you think is insightful and no one comments back on your brilliance or when you ... fill in the

blank, and you don't get the response that you think you should get, how do you feel? How do you feel when you see how many friends you have compared to someone else?

I'll tell you how I feel, and I don't do Facebook or Twitter or YouTube or anything like that because I already have enough narcissistic tendencies in my life and I don't need to add anymore. But sometimes, there are two blogs that I pay close attention to – one is a theology blog and the other is a weather blog. And I sometimes post comments on that weather blog because I studied meteorology in college – I thought that's what I was going to do for a living – and I've kept up with it over the years. Quite frankly, if I do say so myself, I know a lot about meteorology, how the weather works, I know how the numerical prediction systems work. I'm pretty smart about these things. And I have no issues with pride or arrogance.

And so, what will happen is I follow this and I read what they're saying, and I will post my thoughts about it because I'm reading along whenever something exciting is going to happen. But I've noticed something that happens as I'm doing this: I'll write up something, some observation or some thought that I think is really intelligent, pretty observant and of course well-written (because my life is words) and then some other yahoo comes along right after me and posts the same thing, poor typing, poor grammar, and it's slop! You know? And then people will comment on that guy's post! Nobody says, "I think that Rick McKC really knows what he's talking about." And I start thinking, "Why is no one acknowledging my obvious superior contribution to this blog? What's wrong with me? Really, come on, is there some secret agreement among the "inner circle" of the blog to ignore and exclude Rick?"

See, *the issue isn't the blog*. The issue is *me*. If I'm not careful, that stupid weather blog becomes yet another way in which I can use people who don't even know me to make me feel good about myself. Isn't that sick?

But guess what? That's true for all of us who are "broadcasting ourselves." Posting, tweeting, and uploading may not be full-blown "narcissism" but ...

... at the very least, we now have yet another way in which we can use people (some *who don't even know us!*) to make us feel good about ourselves.

That's the truth of it.

"The meaning of friendship has dramatically changed in the digital age" says one researcher. "The number of people that you can count as friends on these sites contributes to individual status and engenders a sense of importance. Relationships are not valued for their own sake but, rather, in bulk. Friends are 'collected' and displayed on web pages for all the world to see and admire."⁸

Wow.

Of course, the question is ... why do we do this? What leads us to see people as "objects to be used" in making us feel good about ourselves?

"When we open our eyes as babies," writes William Temple, "we see the world stretching out around us; we are in the middle of it; all proportions and perspectives in what we see are determined by the relationship of the various visible objects to ourselves. This will remain true of our bodily vision as long as we live. *I* am the center

of the world I see; where the horizon is depends on where I stand.”⁹

In other words, we are self-centered by nature. And here’s the kicker that very few of us ever realize: *unless we somehow overcome that self-centered perspective on life, we’re going to wind up suffering from what psychologists call “approval addiction”* where we begin to live for the approval of others; where must have it at all costs, or we go crazy just like a drug addict goes crazy when they don’t get a fix. We make other people and their applause and acceptance the source of our life ...

... which is why “approval addiction” is a form of idolatry where we manipulate and demand from others what only God can give us.

I think you can see how the social networking thing can lead to this, but I think you can also see that it can happen in so many other ways in our lives as well. You don’t need to be “online” to be a potential victim of approval addiction.

I’ll give you another example, as I said, I don’t do Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, but I don’t really need those things to suck me in to this trap. I already have a platform in which it’s very easy to start thinking of myself as “the star of the show.” Every week, I stand in front of a bunch of people, a lot of whom I don’t even know and who don’t know me. And when it’s over, I’m tempted to focus on ... “Did people like what I said? Will they come back? Did I look good?” (Seriously, these thoughts run through my mind) ... instead of ... “Did people hear what God was saying? Will peoples’ lives change because of this? Did I make God look good?”

That’s the truth about me. And I’m sure in your life, if you were standing up here you could tell a story about you, how this is true in your life as well. But the point is that we don’t need to be online to think of others primarily as objects who will “graciously bestow upon us what we so desperately” need if only we’ll perform well, if only we beg, plead, bow down, sweet talk, handle them just right. That’s *idolatry* – manipulating and demanding from others what only God can give us ... and it leads us to do crazy, stupid things, including (the example in the Scripture) turning our back on Him.

It’s interesting, the Bible tells us that in Jesus’ day, when he was going around teaching, there were quite a few people who as they heard his message began to believe in him and accept him, and John writes ...

Many even among the [religious] leaders believed in Jesus..

But because of the [sect of the] Pharisees [those whose approval you must have if you were going to be validated in the system] these religious leaders would not confess their faith (in Jesus) for fear they would be put out of the synagogue (they would be disapproved of; the people who mattered wouldn’t say ‘oh yeah, we agree, you’re in.’ They would be put out of the synagogue.)

And then John adds this hammering thought, he says the reason these people didn’t share that they had faith in Jesus was that...

they loved praise from men more than they loved praise from God.

John 12:42-43 (NIV)

They loved the praise or the approval they were getting from people more than the praise and approval that they could get from God ... and so they denied God even as he walked among them.

Escaping the Trap

So, I think you can see this is a pretty serious issue. I think you can see that we need to break free from the “approval addiction” at whatever level it’s operating in our lives: whether it’s an issue in why we “broadcast ourselves” in whatever form or it shows up in how we seek approval from our children instead of being their parent or how we tolerate unacceptable behavior in others or we compromise our values because we just want them to like us.

So, the question is how do we escape this trap? How can we break from the idolatry? Simple answer is whenever you deal with idolatry, it comes back to putting self, others and God in their rightful places.

And here’s how it works in relation to approval addiction and narcissism.

Seek approval from God in order to serve people ... instead of seeking approval from people in order to serve self.

What most of us do is to seek approval from people in order to serve self – and as we’ve seen that’s dangerous and destructive to us and everyone around us. So what we need to do instead is seek the approval of God so that we can serve those people ... instead of seeking the approval of those people so that we can serve self. And that’s a pretty massive switch for some of us.

The question is: How do you get to that place in your life? Well, it doesn’t happen overnight. There’s no magic spiritual anti-idolatry pill you can take that just kind of clears this up. But there is a process we can repeat over and over in our hearts and minds that will help. By the way, as you go through this process (and I’m going to explain it to you) it helps to have people around you who understand this process, not just from an intellectual perspective, but because they know they’ve got the same problem and they’re going through the same process too, and they work with you and they encourage you to stay with it. That’s why church matters. That’s why when Shannon talks about small groups and having some kind of relationship with people in this congregation outside of the weekly services, that’s why that matters, because that’s what we’re all trying to do together.

Well anyway, the process is based on an experience that’s recorded in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Turns out that Isaiah, a prophet in those days, had an amazing encounter with God *in which everyone was put in their proper place*. And the result, as we’ll find out as we read the story, was that Isaiah was free to be who he was called to be, he was free to do what he was called to do without being sucked into this approval trap. He got to the point where he didn’t need to use people as objects to get what he needed. So, we can learn from this guy.

Let me read the story to you and then we’ll break it down, which won’t take long because it’s not complex, it’s pretty simple. He writes in Chapter 6, he says,

In the year King Uzziah died (he was the head over Israel at this time), I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne. The bottom of his robe filled the temple. Angels were standing above him. Each had six wings: With two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

They called to each other and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies! (Some translations say “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!”) The whole earth is filled with his glory.” Their voices shook the foundations of the doorposts, and the temple filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:1-4 (GW)

So I said, "Oh, no! I'm doomed. Every word that passes through my lips is sinful. I live among people with sinful lips. I have seen the king, the Lord of Armies!" Then one of the angels flew to me. In his hand was a burning coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. Isaiah 6:5-6 (GW)

He touched my mouth with it and said, "This has touched your lips. Your guilt has been taken away, and your sin has been forgiven." Isaiah 6:7 (GW)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom will I send? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (GW)

And he (God) said, "Go and tell these people ..." Isaiah 6:9 (GW)

And we'll get to what God told Isaiah to tell the people in just a minute because it's pretty significant to the story, but first let's take a closer look at what happened to Isaiah and how God, self and others were put in their rightful places. The first thing that happened as we were reading,

1. Isaiah correctly perceived the greatness of God.

He had this vision. He was sitting there watching this and he is seeing these angels surrounding God saying "Holy, Holy, Holy!" and the whole room was shaking. It was like a rock concert. And Isaiah was going, "I...I... never knew God was that big."

They called to each other and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory." Their voices shook the foundations of the doorposts, and the temple filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:1-4 (GW)

You get this perception. And if you and I are going to escape the trap of approval addiction, you have to have regular time set aside in your life where you perceive the greatness of God. Because when you start seeing the greatness of God what happens? You start realizing that even the *most* wonderful, the smartest, the richest, whoever it is around you, whose approval you want, they're not even in the same league with God. It's a matter of perspective and getting this perspective helps you.

The second thing that happened to Isaiah, after he got the right perspective on God's greatness, is that...

2. He was humbled and even condemned by his own shortcomings.

We don't like using that word because nobody should be condemned. But that's where Isaiah was, right? He said, "I am doomed. I am doomed. I am looking at the greatness and the holiness of God."

So I said, "Oh, no! I'm doomed. Every word that passes through my lips is sinful

And this is really important to know, because remember, Isaiah is a prophet. He's a good guy. He's the cream of the crop, of this nation, spiritually, ethically, morally and any other way. He's the top. And he's looking at God and he's going, "I thought I was a pretty good guy, but in relationship to the holiness of God, every word that comes out of my

mouth has got sin in it. I'm a mess and so are the people I'm trying to serve. He sees this angel that comes flying to him (and remember the place is rockin') and the angel comes flying to him and he's got this hot coal in these tongs, and what do you think Isaiah is thinking? The angel is *right there*, Isaiah's thinking, "I am dead! I am a sinner. I'm dead! He's going to kill me right now."

See, if we're going to break free from approval addiction we've got to humble ourselves before God and admit that we're as bad as any sinner we know in this world. We've got to do that. Otherwise, what is going to happen is, when the people around us begin to fail us (because we've been looking to them to be God, but they're not, they are going to fail) we won't be able to forgive them. We'll be angry, "Why are they letting us down?" because we think we're so much better than them. But when you get the sense of perspective of I am a sinner in the sight of a holy God, you become less judgmental about other people. It just happens. And we need to have that experience as well.

So, Isaiah was afraid, right? But as we know, he wasn't killed. Instead what happened was the most incredible thing,

3. He received grace and mercy from God. (Grace means you get treated better than you deserve and mercy means you don't get treated as bad as you deserve. It's a win – win.)

So Isaiah is sitting there and this angel comes flying to him and he thinks he's going to die then realizes "What? I'm not dead!" And the angel says,

Your guilt has been taken away, and your sin has been forgiven." Isaiah 6:7 (GW)

Shocking moment. And we need to have that same kind of shock friends, over and over in our lives. We need to receive, over and over, the grace and mercy that was bought for us at the cross of Jesus Christ because that's what allows us to forgive the people around us who fail us because they can't give us what only God can give us. You see, once we experience the forgiveness and the release of penalty of sin, that's what enables us to turn around and give that to someone else and release them from being God, or trying to be God.

After receiving grace and mercy, what happened to Isaiah?

4. He was chosen and empowered by God.

Remember God said I've got a mission, I've got to send somebody to do this mission, who can I send. It's almost like God is playing with Isaiah, "Who is there that I can send...?" And Isaiah goes, "Hey! Me! Send Me!" So God sends him out, but what did God choose him for? This is what's interesting. Isaiah was sent to serve sinful people. This is the part of the story that I didn't read to you.

5. Isaiah was sent to serve sinful people.

People who would not like him; people who would not approve of his message; people who wouldn't post on his facebook wall often enough; people who would not rate four thumbs up in response to his blog on "what's really wrong with the nation of Israel these days." These were people who did not like him, because God said,

And he said, "Go and tell these people ..." Isaiah 6:8-9 (GW)

Go and tell these people: “No matter how closely you listen, you’ll never understand. No matter how closely you look, you’ll never see (spiritual truth).”

[Your work will] Make these people close-minded. [It’s going to serve to] Plug their ears. [It’s going to serve to] Shut their eyes.
Isaiah 6:9-10 (GW)

And, Isaiah in response goes, “How long Lord is this going to go on?” which is the question I would be asking.

I asked, “How long, O Lord?” And he replied, “Until the cities lie in ruins with no one living in them, the houses have no people, and the land is completely desolate. The Lord will send his people far away into exile”
Isaiah 6:11-12 (GW)

That’s the message, that’s what he was chosen to do. Here’s the deal, God knew that Isaiah would not receive any approval from people, which is why God put him through that experience. That’s why God put him in this experience where he correctly perceived the greatness of God in relation to these people. Where he was humbled and condemned in his own shortcomings so that he didn’t become judgmental of those people. Where he received grace and mercy from God so he could still be a messenger of grace and mercy to anyone who might believe. See, that’s why God put him through that. And, the story is, Isaiah did it. He actually *did* this mission. Now, did he ever struggle in the future, from this point, with what people were saying about him? I’m sure he did. I’m sure that he had moments where “I just wish someone would come up and put their arm around me and say ‘I see what you’re trying to do. I know nobody is believing, nobody is following, but man, I want you to know you’re doing a great thing.’” He didn’t need that because he could go back in his mind to this event. “Oh, yeah, that’s right, that’s right. I had that experience where I realized that God is the one I need to get my approval from. God’s the one I need to fear, not these people.

So this is the pattern friends. This is the pattern we need to build into our own lives because only then can we love the sinful people around us – people who are always going to be less than God – who will never be able to meet all of the needs that we have.

When we put God in his rightful place instead of using them, people become people. Instead of demanding that they be God, we see them as they are – fallen men and women just like us who deserve to be known, loved, and served with no strings attached, requiring nothing in return.

So, the message: Seek approval from God in order to serve people, instead of seeking approval from people in order to serve self. That’s the road to freedom.

Closing

Now, as we do on many occasions here, we try and put out some truth and let God have some room to speak and that’s what we’re going to do. We’re going to close this service with a time of reflection. We’re just going to be quiet for a minute and focus on *it is God* – the source of our approval. Or, what postings are we doing where we think “I hope somebody sees this – sees how smart I am, sees how cute I am...” or however that works in your life. God has spoken to you this morning. He has spoken to me as I’m teaching this. So let’s take a minute to do what Isaiah did in God’s presence and say “How great is God. How big is God.” How big are the people around me? So that’s what we’re going to do - we’ll have a little bit of silence, then see a short video, then a little bit of scripture, and then the band will close us in a song.

My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation.
Psalms 62:1 (NASB)

ENDNOTES

¹ <http://mashable.com/2009/09/29/meformers/>

² <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1467756?pageNumber=1>

³ http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2009-08-24-narcissism-young_N.htm

⁴ <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1467756?pageNumber=1>

⁵ See http://fuelforfaith.com/fuel_for_faith_vault_articles_view_printfriendly_word.asp?ID=123

⁶ See D.H. Cone: Self-love stuck in an endless honeymoon www.nzherald.co.nz/deborah-hill-cone-on-business/news/article.cfm?c_id=1502883&objectid=10602200&pnum=0

⁷ <http://rileyafox.wordpress.com/2009/09/10/why-i-quit-twitter/>

⁸ see <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/display/article/10168/1467756?pageNumber=3>

⁹ Basic Christian Ethics. P.Ramsay; Scribners, 1950; p.294-5) http://thebibleforstudents.com/study_notes/Daniel_4.html