

**Table Talk #1329 March 23, 1532 Social Intercourse**

*“The papists and Anabaptists teach: If you wish to know Christ, try to be alone, don't associate with men, become a separatist. This is plainly diabolical advice which is in conflict with the first and second table of the Ten Commandments. The first table requires faith and fear of God. According to the second commandment, this is to be preached and publicly praised before men and is to be discussed among men. One must not flee into a corner.*

*So the second table teaches that one must do good to one's neighbor. We ought not to isolate ourselves but enter into companionship with our neighbor. Likewise this notion (to be a separatist) is in conflict with marriage, economic life, and political existence and is contrary to the life of Christ who didn't choose solitude. Christ's life was very turbulent, for people were always moving about him. he was never alone, except when he prayed.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Luther". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'L'.

**Commentary:** There are 70 million evangelical Lutherans in the world but too many are quiet and private about their faith - even with their families and friends. Luther is very clear about the purpose of being evangelical and sharing stories of faith with others. The church has always used the printed and spoken word to inform people about what happens between baptism and death in this life. The 21st century church can benefit from the tools of twitter, Facebook, texting, email, as well as the old school way of actually speaking with someone!

**Question:** How do you communicate important information to others?