

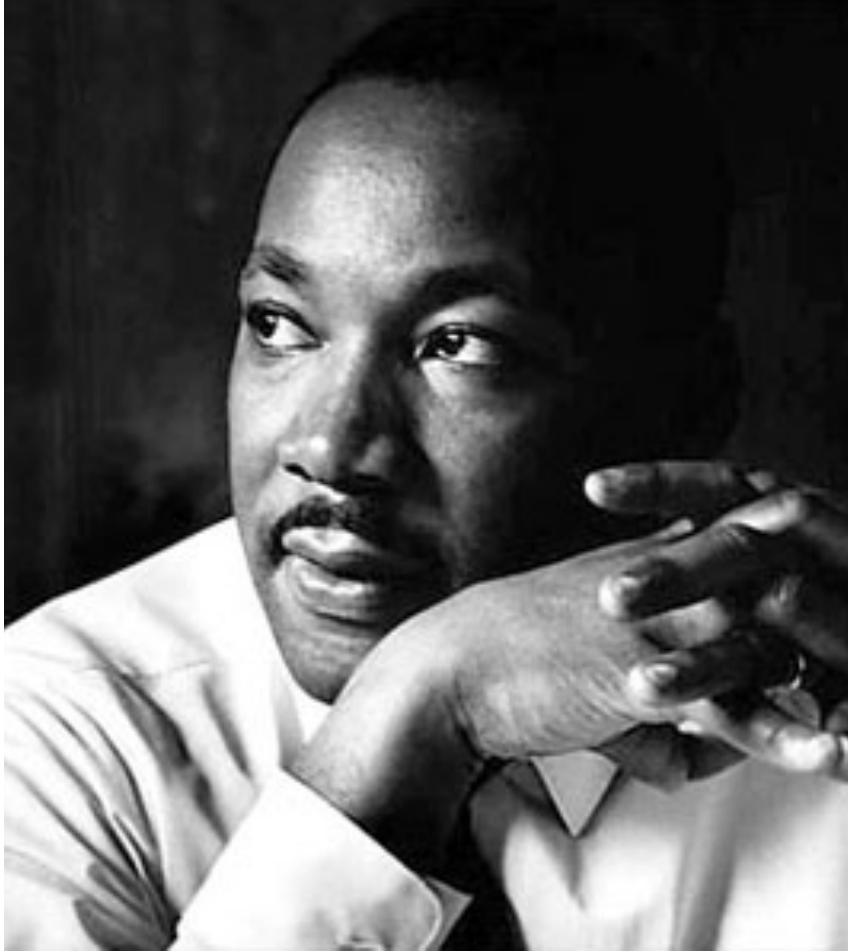
Veneer: Living Deeply in a Surface Society



What life do you want to live?
What life are you living?

Thank
You!

Martin Luther King



“Darkness
cannot drive out
darkness; only
light can do
that. Hate
cannot drive out
hate; only love
can do that.”

What's coming...

- Language of Culture
- 1. Sawmill – seeing Veneer
- 2. Celebrity Me – 15 minutes of fame
- 3. Queen is Dead – consumption
- 4. Vanishing – wrestling with progress
- 5. Inverted World – understanding society
- Interlude.... Preparing for the Language of God
- 6,7,8 are all about the Language of God

vanishing

- What's your thought of the scenario of all your possessions vanishing and then re-appearing?
- What would your grandparents or great-grandparents think of how we purchase things today?
- Imagine your great-grandparents walking through a Wal-Mart?
- Would they buy anything?

vanishing

- Becoming “blind and numb from consuming”
- The collision of technology and consumerism
 - We work in order to consume
 - The more we consume the more we must produce
 - Produce
 - Consume
 - Produce
 - Consume

-- video --

Things change real fast...

vanishing

- How many of you bought things off the internet this Christmas?
- How convenient!
- Philip Sampson
 - “once established, such a culture of consumption is quite indiscriminating and everything becomes a consumer item.”
- Do you feel we have become indiscriminating?

vanishing

- Social Consumption
- What do you think about that concept
- Facebook, etc. is seen in some way of simply “browsing people.”
- Interacting by commenting on someone’s wall is not interacting in person...
- Not judging this, just making the point the book makes...
- We’ve said Facebook and other things have their place, but they shouldn’t “consume”

vanishing

- “a new generation has come of age with a reduced expectation of what a person can be.”
- The comparison of the Calvin&Hobbes comic strip cartoon to how we now play with technology
- “we climb into our computers only to resurface as avatars, status updates, and homemade celebrities”

vanishing

- “We’ve fallen asleep in the land of handshakes and eye contact and walks on the beach and awakened in a world where humans look like products in an online shopping cart – downloadable, browse-able, clickable, even deleteable.”
- Maybe “we” haven’t, but are our kids?
- What will the next generation know about “playing” or “experiencing”

vanishing

- Is that how our next generation will “experience” God? Online?
- Relationships? What will they be like?
- “God weaves every person together in the waiting room of real life; we are ‘fearfully and wonderfully made,’ each of us mysteriously living with the ability to reach toward eternity yet frustrated in our efforts because we are finite.” Read that a few times!

-- video --

'being'

vanishing

- The concept of “being”
- Many people can’t fully “be” in a situation
- We need to learn to be present, really present
- Listening skills
- An age old problem!

vanishing

- “The world is a tactile place, not merely to be experienced but to be encountered.”
- Seeing pictures of Yellowstone or Alaska can never compare to the feeling I had while there, the feeling I had watching my kids experience the Buffalo directly in front of our car, etc.
- Can we replace the “experience” of God with an iPhone app?

vanishing

- *Princess Bride* quote: “woe is me, my pain is so great... life *is* pain... anyone who says differently is selling you something.”
- Last weeks video displayed a world full of pain
- It’s not the pain, it’s how we experience it and how we live through it
- “We see that with love and relationships comes a richness that pain can help form.”
- “The fruit that pain produces nourishes us;”

vanishing

- Read the last two paragraphs of the chapter
- What do you take away from this chapter?
- The internet and our computers aren't going away, so how do you propose we live with them?
- What steps can you take to ensure the next generation still knows what it means to have an experiential relationship (or you for that matter!)?