[**William G. Witt**](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=nf)

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Dear Facebook friends,

I'm on Facebook for five main reasons: (1) to keep in touch with actual friends and family; (2) to keep in touch with faculty and current and former students at the seminary where I teach; (3) to keep in touch with people who share my theological interests; (4) to keep in touch with people in the church (whether fellow Anglicans or not), who for some reason or other might like to connect with me. (5) To have insightful and mutually interesting conversations with any of the above.

I have a lot of Facebook friends (471 of you), and I don't know most of you personally. Generally, if you ask to be my friend, I'll say yes, and I'll assume that you've asked because you belong to one of the above categories and you are interested in (5).

However, there are some folks who get on Facebook either because they think that Facebook is an extension of the kinds of drive-by comment assassination that characterizes the internet as a whole or because they think that Facebook is a great place to share their partisan political or theological agendas. We used to call these people trolls. I'm not sure what they call them now.

Finally, some folks seem to think that the purpose of the entire internet is to share videos of cats. They're an entirely different category.

My point? I'm very interested in having conversations with you if you're all about (5). I have neither time nor interest in partisan debates about either politics or theology. I wasted way too many years of my life doing this before Facebook even existed, and, at a certain point, I decided that such discussions were not good for my spiritual well being.

It's pretty hard for you to get me to "unfriend" you, but if you wonder why I never comment on, "like" or respond to your Facebook posts, it might be because I stopped following you when I got tired of the political or theological agenda you were "sharing." Sorry.

There is one way that I can guarantee that I will unfriend you, and that is if you invade my comments section with your partisan agenda. I don't care how brilliant you are, or how persuasive you think your arguments are. I'm just not interested in those kinds of discussions. Please take them elsewhere.

Sorry for the grump.

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* You, [Alice Linsley](https://www.facebook.com/alice.linsley.5?hc_location=ufi), [Laurence K. Wells](https://www.facebook.com/laurencekw?hc_location=ufi) and [30 others](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=10204344262306794&actorid=1236777437) like this.
* 

Bottom of Form

 [Jim Elliott](https://www.facebook.com/LibraryJim?fref=ufi) I try to keep my comments pertinent to the conversations at hand, and on the appropriate pages, but Facebook has this annoying habit of posting threads on my page that friends have merely commented on or 'liked' whether or not they fit my views. n some cases, where it becomes too annoying I've unfriended those 'friends' just because I don't care to see those threads. And I'm sure it's the same for your newsfeed.

Another problem is that when I DO post political or social commentary, those who have clicked "Follow/get notifications" will see those as well, even if we are 100% on opposite sides on an issue.

So I completely understand your 'Grump'.

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 

 [Trevor Spencer](https://www.facebook.com/trevor.spencer.543?fref=ufi) Can you talk about the theological implications of absolving cats?

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[Like](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ts) · [Reply](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ts) · [10](https://www.facebook.com/browse/likes?id=10204344295947635) · [July 12 at 10:38am](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt/posts/10204344262306794?comment_id=10204344295947635&offset=0&total_comments=19&comment_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22R9%22%7D)

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 [Jim Elliott](https://www.facebook.com/LibraryJim?fref=ufi) You can absolve them, just don't try to baptize one!

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 

 [Trevor Spencer](https://www.facebook.com/trevor.spencer.543?fref=ufi) I'm sure there's a meme for that as well.

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 

 [Jim Elliott](https://www.facebook.com/LibraryJim?fref=ufi) Of course there is.

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 

 [Dave Ketter](https://www.facebook.com/DaveKetter?fref=ufi)

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 [Alan Morris](https://www.facebook.com/alan.morris.7739814?fref=ufi)

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 

 [Alan Morris](https://www.facebook.com/alan.morris.7739814?fref=ufi) NO Trevor we CANNOT talk about the theological implications of baptizing cats! Are you paying any attention at all?

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 

 [Trevor Spencer](https://www.facebook.com/trevor.spencer.543?fref=ufi) Sorry. I've been traveling but I would say that if a cat can be absolved then certainly one should be ablr to baptize it. In the case sprinkling would be acceptable.

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 

 [Dave Ketter](https://www.facebook.com/DaveKetter?fref=ufi) We can do immersion and the priest can just process away from the water a little earlier than usual.

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 

 [Deborah L. Erb-White](https://www.facebook.com/erb.white?fref=ufi) Cats are not sinful. Neurotic? Most assuredly. Psychotic? Often. Cute? Without a doubt. But not in need of absolution or baptism. Not to mention what would happen to you if you tried.

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 

 [William G. Witt](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ufi) I would love to have a conversation about the theological implications of absolving cats. The minute it descends into mutual anathematiizing between absolvers vs. non-absolvers, the conversation is over.

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 

 [Alan Morris](https://www.facebook.com/alan.morris.7739814?fref=ufi) Maggie the cat, my cat, is unforgivable. She is self centered, rude, inappropriate, fanatic, self aggrandizing, and did I mention that she is self centered? Wait a minute...are we talking about me or my cat. I forget, but surely this conversation is going to come around to being about me sooner or later...isn't it?

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 

* [William G. Witt](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ufi) I don't know about cats, but I've always agreed with Mark Twain's comment about dogs: "Heaven goes by favor; if it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in."

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* 

Write a reply...

 

 [Cindy Larsen](https://www.facebook.com/cindy.larsen?fref=ufi) I totally understand. Being on Facebook is my link to things outside of the village where I live in Uganda. No matter where I look on the Internet, the news and views are skewed. I just have to filter out the trash. When abundant trash comes from any particular source, I am very tempted to friend that source of rubbish. Thank you for your though provoking posts, [William G. Witt](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?hc_location=ufi).

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 

 [Rebecca Osborn](https://www.facebook.com/rebecca.hope.osborn?fref=ufi) I thought we were still calling them trolls. But then again, my little sister says Facebook is for "old people"

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 

 [Mike Radcliffe](https://www.facebook.com/mikerad83?fref=ufi) <http://www.drodd.com/images8/funny-gif/funny-gif17.gif>

[](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.drodd.com%2Fimages8%2Ffunny-gif%2Ffunny-gif17.gif&h=_AQFZGh5s&s=1" \t "_blank)

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* 
* [William G. Witt](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ufi) Mike, I see you've figured it out. Yep, it was you.

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 

 [William G. Witt](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ufi) I just noticed that I mention "three" main reaons, and list "5." Clearly, I'm not on Facebook to demonstrate my math skills.

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* 
* [William G. Witt](https://www.facebook.com/william.g.witt?fref=ufi) I fixed the numbering.

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 

 [Jim Elliott](https://www.facebook.com/LibraryJim?fref=ufi) YEah, like the Monty Python "Spanish Inquisition" sketch.
Our main reason....
um, our two main reasons....
ooops, our THREE reasons .....

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 

 [Carson T. Clark](https://www.facebook.com/carson.t.clark?fref=ufi) Amen.

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 

 [Daniel McGregor](https://www.facebook.com/daniel.mcgregor.insearchofeaster?fref=ufi) Well put sir.

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 

 [Geoff Mackey](https://www.facebook.com/orthodoxy.simplicity.mercy?fref=ufi) Preach!

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 [Kendall Harmon](https://www.facebook.com/kendall.harmon.121?fref=ufi) Darn I was only here for the cats (gg)

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 

 [Wally LaLonde](https://www.facebook.com/wally.lalonde?fref=ufi) God, I loved having you as a professor!!! Rock on Bill!

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 [Peter Frank](https://www.facebook.com/peter.frank1?fref=ufi) There should be a special facebook filter for people who don't want to fight all of the time about everything.

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 [Johann Wilhelmus Vanderbijl III](https://www.facebook.com/johann.vanderbijl?fref=ufi) Hear, hear...

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 

 [Jim Suthard](https://www.facebook.com/jim.suthard?fref=ufi) Appreciate you -- your thoughts -- and your example.

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 

 [Bob Hudson](https://www.facebook.com/bob.hudson.735?fref=ufi) Amen. smile emoticon

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 

 [Patricia Hanlon](https://www.facebook.com/patricia.hanlon.562?fref=ufi) I think it's fairly accepted practice to unfollow people and stay "friends."

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 

 [Gregory Nelson Chase](https://www.facebook.com/gregory.n.chase?fref=ufi) Well said Bill. I "met" you on Anglican TV and have always respected your view point. smile emoticon Dcn.Greg

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 

 [Michael Pomeroy](https://www.facebook.com/michael.pomeroy.142?fref=ufi) Grump away Dr. Witt! I do not post to Facebook, and only occasionally comment. Though you couldn't possibly remember it, I was one of your students from the Diocese of the Rio Grande SFM, who greatly enjoyed your class and learned so much from it. I follow your blog as well - on occasion. I just want to hear what YOU have to say. I'll go back to being silent in the background. Peace, Mike+

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 



Write a comment...