

## P2P theology part 2.

After reviewing the previous research on virtual and real-life communities, Jones (1997) uses the term "virtual settlement" to refer to the "cyber-space" (virtual environment) within which a virtual community operates. Jones suggests four conditions in order for cyberspace interaction to be defined as a "community." These are: (1) a virtual common-public-space where a significant portion of interactive group-CMCs occur; (2) a variety of communicators; (3) a minimum level of sustained stable membership; and (4) a minimum level of interactivity.

These four criteria suggest a way of analyzing P2P theological interaction. A grid blog, or a website designed for theological interaction, can be compared and contrasted using these four conditions.

- Open source theology: I will use [www.opensourcetheology.net](http://www.opensourcetheology.net) as a case study.
- Blogging: I will use selected blog responses to the 2004, Windsor Report, to allow focus. (See for example [http://frjakestoptheworld.blogspot.com/2004/10/windsor-report\\_18.html](http://frjakestoptheworld.blogspot.com/2004/10/windsor-report_18.html) and the comments).
- Grid-blogging: See my earlier post at <http://hypertextbible.org/virtual/blog/2005/01/p2p-theology.php>. I will use [grid : ritual] and [grid :brand] as examples.

Equally, such case study analysis might reveal missing dimensions in Jones analysis of on-line communities.

	Open source theology:	Blogging:	Grid-blogging:
(1) a virtual common-interactive-public-space	5	5	3 – need to follow links.
(2) a variety of communicators	5	3 – relies on comments	5 -
(3) minimum sustained stable membership	??	??	??
(4) minimum interactivity	??	??	2 – no need to engage with other grid-blogs

Key 1 = poor, 3 = good, 5 = very good

??'s = I am still in process and will be fascinated to see the interaction on Saturday!

Q. Jones, (1997). Virtual-communities, virtual settlements & cyber-archaeology: A theoretical outline. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* [Online], 3(3). Available: <http://www.ascusc.org/jcmc/vol3/issue3/jones.html>.