Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regressions of sorts. The lyrics remind us that even in 2017, we neglect living by remaining silently affixed: destruction from within.

Most importantly, the image depicting worship to a false idol represents the ugly truth of what our society has placed our values in. The lines “the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made” (29-30) depict a society in which our manmade versions of ‘life’ have become more important than living life itself. We are mere shells of the appearance of life. Because distractions of technology create masks that shield true identities, society has made us a cookie-cutter planet where everyone is emulating and one-upping everyone else: “ten thousand people maybe more” (l17) needing wanting the next best material possession. As additional support, lines 1, 2, and 11 show how people tend to care more about their material possessions than they do people or morals. One will turn their collar from living and return to the darkness of an old friend in the cold and damp because our self-centered lives breed our silence. Take a look at our shopping malls, magazines, and advertisements that bombard our minds—they all cater to the “Material Girl” as Madonna in the 80’s dubbed not too long ago. This is nothing new and is not soon disappearing. Disappointingly so, technology comes before family, even at the dining room table in the security of home! Families are “talking without speaking, hearing without listening, writing songs they will never share” (lines 18-20). Cellphones and tablets are conversing with no-one, “followers” rather than the shared DNA sitting right in front of them. Neon gods have created a society based on superficiality and divisibility, where one never really knows, or cares for that matter, about anyone else. Since no one cares enough to lift their heads and speak up or listen up, their masks of conformity continue to trap them within the silence.

“The Sounds of Silence” has a message for each and every one of us. It is important to remember, everyday, that silence and conformity can be dangerous. Though it takes courage, we need to accept and like who we are. Perhaps, then, others can do the same.
Maintaining Silence: the Status-Quo

Though written during a turbulent time in the United States (1964), Simon and Garfunkel’s song, “The Sounds of Silence” shows how little we have progressed as a country and how quite possibly our man-made possessions have caused a regressions of sorts. (1.) The lyrics remind us that even in 2017, we neglect living by remaining silently affixed: destruction from within. (2)

Most importantly, the image depicting worshipping to a false idol represents the ugly truth of what our society has placed our values in. (3) Simon writes, “the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made” (Simon 29-30) depict a society in which our manmade versions of ‘life’ have become more important than living life itself. (5) In other words, people have become mere shells of the appearance of life. (6) Because distractions of technology create masks that shield true identities, society has made us a cookie-cutter planet where everyone is emulating and one-upping everyone else: “ten thousand people maybe more” (Simon 17) needing wanting the next best material possession. (7) As additional support, lines 1, 2, and 11 show how people tend to care more about their material possessions than they do people or morals. (8) One will turn their collar from living life and return to the darkness of an old friend in the cold and damp because our self-center lives breed our silence. (9) Take a look at our shopping malls, magazines, and advisements that bombard our minds- they all cater to the “Material Girl” as Madonna in the 80’s dubbed not too long ago. (10) This is nothing new and is not soon disappearing. (11) Disappointingly so, technology comes before family, even at the dining room table in the security of home! (12) Families talking without speaking, hearing without listening, writing songs they will never share (Simon 18-20). (13) Because cellphones and IPADS are affixed to craniums conversing with no-one/ “followers” rather than the shared DNA sitting right in front of them. (14) These neon gods have created a society based on superficiality and divisibility, where no one ever really knows, or cares for that matter, about anyone else. (15) Since no one cares enough to lift their heads and speak up or listen up, their masks of conformity remain trapped within the silence. (16)

“The Sounds of Silence” has a message for each and every one of us even forty years after its release. (17) It is important to remember, everyday, that silence creates conformity and destruction. (18) Though it takes courage, we need to accept that silence doesn’t have to be the status-quo. (19) perhaps, then, others can do the same. (20) Determine, first, are your desires bringing moral justice to your life as well as others? (21) Are you listening to the whispers of ‘neon gods’ or the whispers of prophets? (22) Have you turned to the cold and damp? (23) Your choices write your message on the banner of your life. (24) Now make your choice and write your banner. (25)