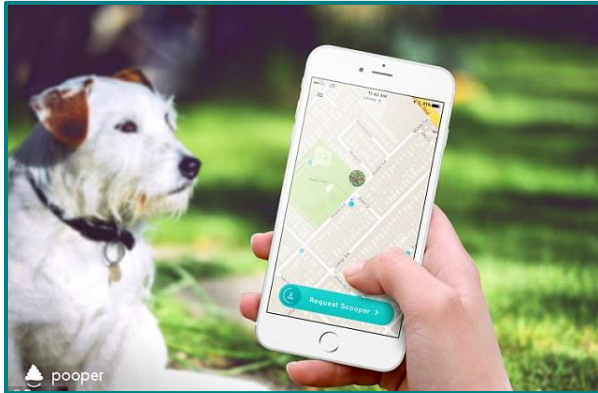


Our Problem-Solving Apps

An article appearing in *Mother Nature Network*, written by Jenn Savedge, told of a new app that spread like wildfire in cities across the U.S. last year. A new service called *Pooper* promised to provide on-demand dog-poo pickup with the tap of a button.



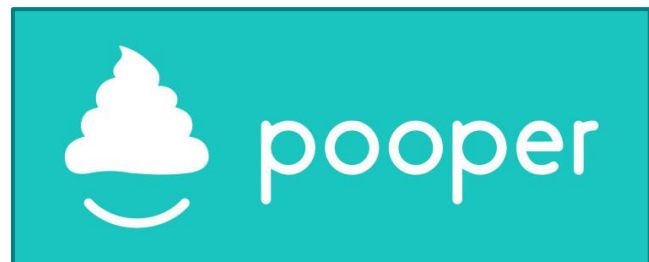
After paying a small monthly fee (ranging from \$15 a month for two scoops per day to \$35 a month for unlimited scoops), users simply had to snap a photo of their dog's business before walking away, confident in the knowledge that a "scooper" would be along shortly to pick it up.

Tens of thousands of people visited the *Pooper* website within a week. Tens of thousands!

There was just one problem: The app wasn't real. The whole thing was a joke.

Pooper's creators, Ben Becker and Elliott Glass, were not after a punch line. The creative design and advertising executives were trying to make a point. "*Pooper* is, in fact, a piece of art that is satirizing our app-obsessed world," Becker admitted in an interview with *Fast Company*. "Specifically, the increasing reliance on the gig-based economy to do stuff for us that we could easily do for ourselves.

"You don't have to drive yourself these days. You don't have to get your own food. You don't even have to run your own errands or hang your own shelves," Becker added. "As it continues this way, we're just wondering, where do you draw the line? Where do we as a society even care about drawing the line?"



Becker poses an appropriate question: Where, indeed, do we draw the line? It seems any service that makes one's life easier, less messy or more convenient is met with great enthusiasm these days. And truthfully, what's wrong with that?

Nothing, so long as this consumer mentality doesn't negatively affect our willingness to serve others. And more specifically, so long as we resist the temptation to develop apps to take the place of exercising our spiritual gifts. Like doing extra acts of kindness and helpfulness to our residents – on or off the job. Or volunteering at some charitable organization. Or transporting a neighbor to a doctor's office for a checkup.

(more)

Maybe even delivering a meal to that sick member of your church. Can you see it now? Just tap the app and a hot meal is on its way. And by the way, such online service already exists!

Service – the powerful, interactive, personal, eager-to-help kind – has no real substitute. If we are passionate about it and practice it well, we are set apart in a service-hungry world.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter