



What Does the Church Look Like in The New Normal?

Everyone is talking about ‘the new normal’. Wearing masks, social distancing, etc. Things we never dreamed of a year ago now are normal. In this new normal there are also changes to this church. Online: services; Connect Groups; giving; devotionals, and membership class. In this New Normal, what will our church look like in the future?

Series Scripture:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

Jesus doesn't change. He's still our focus. The WHO of church doesn't change but the HOW changes.

Kingdom vs. Worldly Mindset

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

We should be different than the world, a peculiar people, royal priesthood.

We are Disciples of Jesus. Citizens of Heaven. That means we must look and act like He did. We look weird to this world.

The Church's Eternal, Unchanging **Values.**

We value Discipleship. (The Mission of the Church)

Reaching the Unchurched & Teaching the Church

We value The Word of God. (Learning of Jesus)

We value Praise & Worship. (Honoring the Father)

We value God's Presence. (Holy Spirit Connection)

We value Prayer. (2 Way Communication)

We value The Gifts of the Spirit. (Charismatic Doctrine)

We value a Humble Servant's Heart. (Changed Life)

We value Commitment (To God, Family & Church)

We value Unity. (Kingdom First Mindset)

We value Being Welcoming, & Safe. (No Perfect People)

The House of Praise also values **A positive Attitude, Creativity, Punctuality, Enthusiasm, & Fun!** Not eternal values, but these are part of our church's personality.

Side Note: In the New Normal We Must Be Flexible

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:2

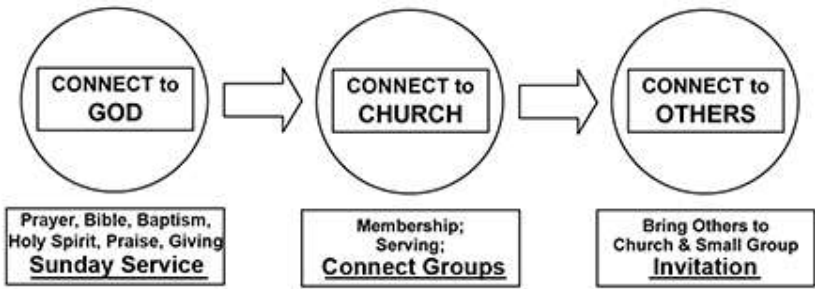
In the new normal, some things are going to be changing. Stay humble, gentle and patient even if some mistakes are made.

We Value Our **MISSION Above Everything.**

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

The purpose of the church is discipleship. This has to be the highest priority!



I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10

Focused upon the purpose of making disciples.

We Value the MESSAGE of the Gospel

Go to the Temple and give this message of life. Acts 5:20

Now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people’s faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Romans 16:17

I have one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21

This will never change, no new normal to the message.

We are all sinners in need of a merciful, Savior.

We Value New METHODS

I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessing. 1 Corinthians 9:23

Modern Methods, Ancient Message.

The Method of the REACH Campaign and the Vision for this church has NOT changed.

The Method & Vision for Online Church HAS changed.

The New Normal for church is

- 50% of First-Time Guests watch the broadcast 2x before attending
- 30% of regular church attenders pre-quarantine, will not return to their home church afterward. (Barna)

We are moving to an Online Church format instead of just doing a broadcast.

- **Separate Department, like a 2nd Campus.**
- **Investing in Improving the Quality**
- **Can do Everything Online**

We Value Generosity.

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

God’s people should be generous.

70% of our giving is not automated online. Have you signed up?

My Next Steps this week:

- Attend a Connect Group THIS WEEK, In-Person or On-Line.**
- Participate in the YouVersion Devotional¹, The New Normal.**
- Support Church Vision for New Normal.**

¹ On your phone or tablet ONLY not web browser:

- Go to App store and download the YouVersion Bible App
- Open YouVersion App and Friend Request Pastor Lon
- He will send you and invite to the Devotional.
- Accept it and grow spiritually!

Recommended Resources



Unshakable: Standing Strong When Things Go Wrong

by Nelson Searcy; (Forward by Pastor Lon Dean)

This book will provide encouragement to those who are under tension, in a trial or having trouble. It's broken into quick and easy-to-read chapters so read the part you're going through right now.

Pastor Lon wrote the forward detailing his own struggle to stand strong through sickness and job loss.

Retail \$19.99, Sold previously here for \$11.99

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