



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday May 28, 2020

Should We Return to Normal?

Dear Pastor,

No doubt there are many lessons the Lord has for all of us during these days of “the ‘rona.” Most of us—and I definitely include myself!—are way beyond ready to get back to “normal.” **The question is: Should we return to normal?**

Certainly there are some aspects of normal we should return to. That is probably a long list. However, **have you thought about what things used to be “normal” to which you *won’t* return?** Here is a “normal” I do NOT want to return to. I do not want to return to the “normal” of taking for granted our ability to meet as a church family, to worship and praise together, to rejoice together and to grieve together.



I also do not want to return to the “normal” of assuming that I will be able to do ministry and outreach whenever, wherever and however I want to.

Maybe a new normal should be recognizing there might be ways we can expand our ministries without expending a great deal of extra time, money or energy. Maybe a new normal is discontinuing or re-inventing ministries that were being maintained due to tradition but not due to effectiveness.

The response to the COVID-19 virus certainly has highlighted political division in our state. Whatever you conclude about the effectiveness, appropriateness and legality of state and federal responses, **it is more evident than ever that elected officials need our prayers.** Complaining about our elected officials may be as American as baseball and apple pie, but we are called to a higher standard. That standard begins, I believe, with the priority of prayer. *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence,* (I Tim. 2:1-2).

Are you praying for Governor Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes publicly and privately by name? Are you praying for your state representative and your state senator publicly and privately by name? How about your mayor and alders? Intercessory prayer for “all who are in authority” is both our privilege and responsibility. If you have been doing that, keep it up, or do it even more! That should be a normal part of ministry. If you have not been, then may I suggest it become a new normal for you?

Another new normal I invite you to consider is to go one step further and work on developing relationships with your elected officials. I am very grateful for those pastors who have intentionally worked on connecting with their local elected officials especially during the virus crisis. Those holding statewide office need our ongoing, intentional attention as well.

If you have not watched our 5-minute video promoting the importance of pastors reaching out to elected officials, please do so [HERE](#). Our prayer is that your new normal will include developing authentic redemptive relationships with the “shepherds” of government.

In Christ,

Dave Lingle
WFC Church Ambassador

PS: [HERE](#) is a thoughtful and possibly helpful article about your church returning to “normal”. And just a reminder that helpful resources for returning to “normal” can be found on our website [HERE](#):

PPS: Mark your Calendar! On Tuesday, June 9th, we plan to host a lunchtime webinar with [Dr. James Garlow](#), author of [Well Versed: Biblical Answers to Today's Tough Issues](#). Plan now to join us. Details and a link to sign up will be provided next Tuesday.