

*HOW TO BE THE*

# CHURCH

*IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD*



What does it mean to be a  
new testament church  
in our current reality?



# Problem



THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS DESTROYED THE 3 BASIC METRICS MANY NORTH AMERICAN CHURCHES USE TO MEASURE SUCCESS:

- Buildings - Physical campuses are empty
- Bodies - Attendance cannot be accurately counted and success cannot be
- Budgets - Giving has decreased radically (a trend that has already begun)

# 3 WAYS THE CORONAVIRUS IS KILLING CONSUMER CHRISTIANITY:

1

## STRIPPING CHURCH OF EXCESS

“What if God...is downshifting the American church into a mode of simplicity, stripped of nonessentials, renewed in its fundamental identity as the people of God?” quote in article from Duke Kwon

2

## BLOWING UP THE NOTION OF SUNDAY-ONLY FAITH

What does faith look like when “going to church” isn’t a part of it?

3

## CHALLENGING CHRISTIANS TO GIVE WITHOUT GETTING

Will God’s people be generous for the sake of loving one another when the transactional expectation of receiving goods and services ceases?

# Opportunity: 3 kinds of outcomes

SOME CHURCHES WILL CLOSE

Fragile churches

SOME WILL SURVIVE

Figure out how to do business as usual

SOME WILL THRIVE

Forced to think differently, will discover the treasure of people!





THIS IS A CALL TO:

REPENT

RETURN

REIMAGINE



# 1. Repent

- Idol of the Event
- Idol of Success
- Idol of the Gifted Leader
- Idol of Busyness



## 2. Return

- Return to the New Testament vision of Church
- Ask, “What is the essence of all that God intended us to be corporately?” (Chuck Wood, #NPL)





# What we see in the NT

ACTS 2:37-47

- Worship
- Discipleship
- Ministry
- Fellowship
- Evangelism
- Prayer

## 12 CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH



**Evangelism**



**Discipleship**



**Membership**



**Leadership**



**Preaching  
& Teaching**



**Ordinances**



**Worship**



**Fellowship**



**Prayer**



**Accountability  
& Discipline**



**Giving**



**Mission**

# 3 Essential Leadership Roles

1. Every Believer Ministering the Gospel
2. Servant Deacons Caring for the Vulnerable
3. Pastors Equipping the Saints



# 3. Reimagine

- We will have to apply New Testament principles to new modalities of practice.
- We must have imagination grounded in sound New Testament ecclesiology. “If we aren’t deliberate about thinking theologically and systemically about beliefs, then we hand the systems story of the church over to pop culture, mere pragmatism, or the many other prevailing forces that simply co-opt our thinking and doing,” (Hirsch and Ferguson, *On the Verge*, 152).



# Principles of Innovation

- We must maintain mission as our catalyzing principle.
- We must recognize that the pandemic will lead to a new - and still unknown - contextualization of missional approaches into a setting that will be a “new normal” at best.
- We must work together to share ideas and approaches!