



NAVIGATING THE **NEW NORMAL**



MESSAGE: Navigating the New Normal: Loss of Connection

SPEAKER: Paul Basden | **DATE:** April 25 & 26, 2020

Of all the things we miss, being with those we love, but can't see, is near the top of the list ...

What is loss of connection?

Social distancing - It prevents us from doing 3 things we need and love to do

Seeing those who mean the most to us

Gathering in groups

“collective effervescence”

Touching those we love

Loneliness

Survey of 1,000 Americans shows 44% of us are lonelier now than before

Experience of grief

Grief is how we respond when something meaningful is taken from us

Loss of connection - means the loss of face-to-face interaction, as well as the loss of relational patterns, that gave our lives meaning and predictability

Why do we miss others so much?

God made us social

We see it in creation

*Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”
(Genesis 2:18, NLT)*

We see it in wisdom

Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12, NLT)

We see it in the church

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Live in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:10, 16, NIV)

Let us stop passing judgment on one another. (Romans 14:13)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you. (Romans 15:7)

Science confirms our inherently social nature

When science confirms something in the Bible, we should smile and say, "All truth is God's truth"

We are wired for connection

How can we find new ways to connect?

Maximize technology

Learn the value of drive-by

Be as creative as you want

Pray for those you can't be with right now

What do we do when things don't go our way?

Turn to God

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62:8, NIV)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV)

Trust God

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6, NIV)

How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? (Habakkuk 1:2, NIV)

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (Habakkuk 3:17-18, NIV)

Nothing + Jesus > everything – Jesus