



What we **do** in a crisis determines the **benefit** of the crisis.

Our New Normal includes:

- **Courage** for our new normal.

Definition:

Courage is the ability to act in the presence of danger.

The ability to do what we think can't be done.

The ability to do the right thing in the face of adversity.

While we typically think courage is doing the crazy thing that gets everyone's attention, courage can also be doing the right thing that gets God's attention.

- Courage is developed in crisis.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

1 The wicked flee when no one is chasing them! But the godly are bold as lions! Proverbs 28:1 (TLB)

7 God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NCV)

As Christ followers it feels like:

We are putting our American rights before our Kingdom responsibilities.

27 Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ... Philippians 1:27(NLT)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. Romans 13:1-5 (NIV)

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the king. 1 Peter 2:13-17 (NIV)

Courage is about trusting God above everyone and everything.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

Courage is about doing the right thing when we don't want to.

Courage in this crisis means:

- We submit to God as we set aside our preferences.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors... 1 Peter 2:13 (NIV)

- Submission to God requires that we pray for Governor Newsome.

The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (MSG)

The difference between Courage and Crazy:

- Is God asking me to behave like this?
- Are my actions going against God's Word?
- Am I being driven by faith or frustration?

Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose. James 1:20 (GNT)

- Does my behavior draw attention to God or myself?



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How are you doing in this crisis?
- Do you feel like you are intentionally doing things in this crisis that are drawing you closer to God? Explain.
- From the definitions given, would you say that you live with courage? Explain.
- Are you personally struggling with Governor Newsome's policies about the church being unable to meet?
- Do you believe that in our frustration we are putting our American rights before our kingdom responsibilities? Why
- Read Romans 13:1-5. How does this scripture tell us to behave to Governor Newsome's policies? Why this is so difficult for us?
- Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. How does this passage apply to our feelings with the government? What stands out to you from these scriptures? What does it mean to submit?
- How do we put aside our preferences? How does God want us to respond when our American rights are being abused?
- Talk through the 4 questions under the subheading - The difference between courage and crazy.

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