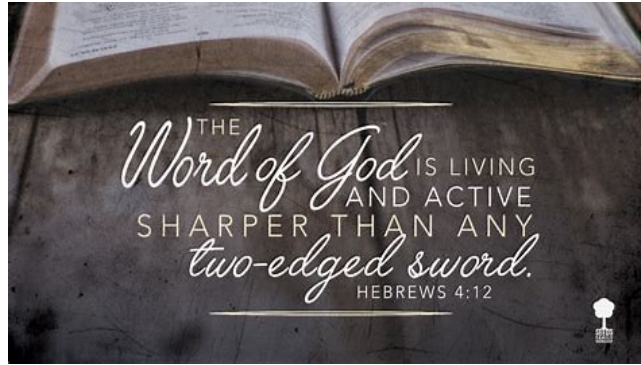




Lewiston Church of Christ

August 23, 2020



Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM
Sun. Worship 10:45 AM
Sun. Day/Evening Groups
Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Jerry Bolm: 208-360-9186

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee’ Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

The New Normal

The dictionary defines *normal* as “conformity to a common standard.” So, in a culture wherein few standards are shared, most anything can pass as normal. Without standards, who can discern whether “normal” is an insult or a compliment?

In fields wherein standards still exist, “normal” actually can be defined. In biology, normal means that one is free of infection, disease, or injury. In psychology, it describes one who is fairly well adjusted. In math, it means something most normal people can’t define (something about perpendicular lines). In chemistry, it refers to an equivalent weight of the constituent in question in one liter of a solution. In statistics, it is a distribution of probability as seen on a bell-shaped curve.

By contrast, *normal* has nearly no meaning in today’s culture because we are losing our grip on standards. In our entertainment media, with millions of passive viewers at their daily disposal, *normal* can be changed on a dime. Do the math: Subtract all standards and *normal* becomes anything and nothing at the same time. With uncommon ease, Hollywood sets and resets most of our social standards and makes its values mainstream. In my life, I have seen nearly every healthy code of morality, modesty, respectability, sexuality, and speech eroded into a “new normal,” over and over.

Time to turn to God’s word:

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)

Translation: don’t seek for God’s “good, pleasing and perfect will” on TV.

The question is not, “What is normal?” It is, “What are your standards and from where do they come?” Sin is not new but it does get more deadly when it is normalized. Nothing stigmatizes sin like the Bible. Today, it is abnormal to spend more time with your Bible and your church than with your TV. Dare to be abnormal!

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Web

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