

Pk's Perspectives... Ten Predictions About The Future Church (conclusion)

TEN PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE CHURCH (by Carey Nieuwhof)

1. THE POTENTIAL TO GAIN IS STILL GREATER THAN THE POTENTIAL TO LOSE.
2. CHURCHES THAT LOVE THEIR MODEL MORE THAN THE MISSION WILL DIE.
3. THE GATHERED CHURCH IS HERE TO STAY.
4. CONSUMER CHRISTIANITY WILL DIE AND A MORE SELFLESS DISCIPLESHIP WILL EMERGE.
5. SUNDAYS WILL BECOME MORE ABOUT WHAT WE GIVE THAN WHAT WE GET.
6. ATTENDANCE WILL NO LONGER DRIVE ENGAGEMENT; ENGAGEMENT WILL DRIVE ATTENDANCE.
7. SIMPLIFIED MINISTRIES WILL COMPLEMENT PEOPLE LIVES, NOT COMPETE WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES.

8. ONLINE CHURCH WILL SUPPLEMENT THE JOURNEY BUT NOT BECOME THE JOURNEY.

There's a big discussion right now around online church. I think in certain niches online church might become the church for some who simply have no other access to church.

But there is something about human relationship that requires presence. Because the church at its fullest will always gather, online church will supplement the journey. I believe that online relationships are real relationships, but they are not the greatest relationships people can have.

Think of it like meeting someone online. You can have a fantastic relationship. But if you fall in love, you ultimately want to meet and spend your life together. So it is with Jesus, people and the church.

9. ONLINE CHURCH WILL BECOME MORE OF A FRONT DOOR THAN A BACK DOOR. There's no question that today online church has become a back door for Christians who are done with attending church. While online church is an amazing supplement for people who can't get to a service, it's still an off ramp for Christians whose commitment to faith is perhaps less than it might have been at an earlier point. Within a few years, the dust will settle and a new role for online church and online ministry will emerge. Online church has the potential to become a massive front door for the curious, the unconvinced and for those who want to know what Christianity is all about. In the same way you purchase almost nothing without reading online reviews or rarely visit a restaurant without checking it out online first, a church's online presence will be a first home for people which for many, will lead to a personal connection with Christ and ultimately the gathered church.

10. GATHERINGS WILL BE SMALLER AND LARGER AT THE SAME TIME. There are bad mega-churches and bad small churches. And there are wonderfully effective mega-churches and wonderfully effective small churches. We will likely see large churches get larger. Multisite will continue to explode, as churches that are effective expand their mission. Paradoxically, future large churches will likely become large not because they necessarily gather thousands in one space, but because they gather thousands through dozens of smaller gatherings under some form of shared leadership. Some of those gatherings might be as simple as at a coffee shop or even home venues under a simple structure. We will see the emergence of bigger churches and smaller churches at the same time as the gathered church continues to change.

The Gospel of Jesus never changes; the strategies and systems the church uses to reach its community with the never-changing Gospel will experience constant analysis & revision. God changes caterpillars into butterflies, sand into pearls, and coal into diamonds using time and pressure. He's working on FBC Cochran, too. Cya Sunday morning, PK.