



What is our current series about? What do you think that means?

Everybody say, "ONE TEAM!" Again! ONE TEAM. Once more like you mean it! ONE TEAM! That's the spirit! We just went through 7 weeks of our opening series for 2021. What was it called again? ONE. And what did we say to each other every week for 7 weeks? Go ahead and tell the person next to you. In that series, we learned that the vision of our Lord, His most earnest prayer--in fact, His COMMAND--was that we be what? ONE. And remember I said that series lays out everything our church will be about in 2021. Every message in that series was going to turn into a whole series. So today we start a brand new series based on just one of the messages from our ONE series. Over the next 6 weeks, we're talking about one thing: How to be ONE CHURCH. We're calling it ONE TEAM.

What are 3 ways to get the most out of this series?

Three ways to MAXIMIZE your growth from this series:

First, SERVICES: Meet here in the locker room every week for your weekly team briefing.

Second, SMALL GROUP: I will email you the study guide every week. I will ask you questions about the message in that study guide. Get around the family or join one of our Ohana Groups and talk about what the Lord is saying to you guys every week. And pray for each other to step out in obedience.

Third, SELF-STUDY: Take that same study guide with you in your personal quiet times. Let the Spirit speak to YOU personally about your life, your character, your relationship with God and others.

SERVICES. SMALL GROUP. SELF-STUDY. Tell the person next to you those three things.

So today let me put my "coach's hat" on and help us with the BIG QUESTION to open our series. How do we know that we've WON? If we become ONE CHURCH, ONE TEAM, what does that look like? Today, we're going to find out what winning looks like when we become ONE TEAM.

How would you DEFINE WINNING in life?

Today we will DEFINE THE WIN.



Every team wants to win. In fact, every organization, every business, every church, every family, every body wants to win. It's easy to define the win in football. At the end of the game, your score is higher than the other team's. In golf, your score is lower. Easy!

How would you define winning in LIFE? In other words, how can you tell if you are succeeding in life or not? And how does GOD define winning? Do you think your definition of winning is the same as God's? What if your definition of winning is NOT God's? In fact, what if your definition of winning is God's definition of losing? Listen carefully for how we can, here it is, ALIGN our definition of winning with God's definition of win. Let's DEFINE THE WIN.

Unlike sports, the game of life has no real scoreboard. No way to check how well you're doing. So, how do YOU define winning in LIFE? If you win 7 super bowls like Tom Brady, did you win IN LIFE? If you become like Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, did you win? If you become president, did you win? If you stay healthy and live to 100, did you win? Or is it the most likes on Instagram? More friends on Facebook? Employee of the month? One guy might say, "Eh, Pastah Mike, I no get all dat, but my car stay CHERRY, brah!" Is that your win?

What is DL Moody's greatest fear? Why? What do you think about this?

DL Moody once said, "My greatest fear is not failure; it is to succeed at something that doesn't matter."

Or Da Pidgin version: "Everybody like succeed, but what if you jes suck seed?" You understand? No jes suck seed! Succeed! Ask Pastor Earl if you didn't get that.

We want to define what winning looks like in the Church, but more importantly what winning look like in YOUR life. You may be climbing the ladder to success, but what if your ladder is leaning up against the wrong building!?

How does God define the win?

Let's read one of the scariest passages in the Bible together. Ready go:

"On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you'" (John 7:22-23 NLT).



It seems we can even do “church things” and STILL not win! So scary! So right about now you’re probably saying, “Help me out, coach!” What IS God’s definition of winning? Ok, here we go. Like John Wayne used to say, “Listen tight.” What is New Hope Central Oahu’s new motto? Right! “When God Shows Up.” Our church is about seeing God re-presented or revealed all around us. And for the last 7 weeks we learned a HUGE lesson about exactly how “God shows up.” God showing up is NOT just confined to supernatural prophecy, casting out demons, and miraculous signs. We contend for all those things here at our Church, but remember, Jesus HIMSELF says it’s possible to do ALL of those things and He could still deny that He ever knew you. God shows up when we obey--everybody say obey--His command to LOVE HIM and LOVE EACH OTHER--when we learn to DIE to our own preferences, opinions, and self-centered, consumer attitudes about what’s in it for me. When we learn to say “I love you and there’s absolutely nothing you can do about it.” You can insult me, persecute me, betray me, cut me up into a million little pieces, but every little piece will still love you and there’s nothing you can do about it. You may no longer be my friend, but I will always be yours. And I will pray for you, hope the best for you, do everything the Father asks me so that you will know how deep and endless is His love for you. And I pray you will have the same heart towards me. God shows up when God and His people learn to live as ONE. This is not OUR definition of winning. This is how GOD DEFINES THE WIN. So how do we know we’ve WON? We’re ONE. How do we know we’ve WON? Ask the person next to you, “How do we know we’ve won?”

WHY does God say “oneness” is the win?

Remember this passage from our ONE series?

“Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all” (Ephesians 4:3-6 NLT).

When we learn to live as one by re-presenting God to each other, God shows up. And that’s how GOD DEFINES THE WIN.

Where have you noticed that Christians stop short of the actual win? How do they confuse “success” in some aspect of the Christian life with “winning” in the Christian life? Explain.



It's so important for Christians to know how God defines the win, because you might succeed at some ASPECT of the Christian life and THINK you've won. But in reality you didn't. You made progress, but you didn't WIN.

In football if you gain 10 yards, did you win the game? Of course not. You moved the sticks. You made a first down. Good. But the game isn't over. It's the same in the Christian life. So you decide to come to church one weekend. Good! You moved the sticks. That's a first down. But the game isn't over. You keep coming to church. You listened to the whole ONE series. Good! You're driving down the field! But the game isn't over. You join an Ohana Group or take a class in the Academy. Awesome! Now you're in the red zone! But the game isn't over. You finally decide to follow Jesus. Wonderful! Touchdown! The crowd goes wild! But the game isn't over.

You bring the rest of your family to Church and everybody comes to Christ! You're running up the score! More touchdowns! But the game isn't over.

You start to prophesy, cast out demons, and do miracles! Wow! More touchdowns! But the game isn't over. All those things are awesome! But the Bible is super clear. You can do ALL of those things, but if you don't have what? LOVE. Then you did not win the game. (1 Corinthians 13) In football, coach will say, "We need 100% effort for all 4 quarters." In the Christian life, God wants 100% love and unity for all 4 quarters of our lives. How do we know we've won? [Listen] We're ONE.

But we already kinda know this, right? You can have all the riches of this world but if our SOUL is not ONE what good is it? What if you had all the money in the world at the expense of your soul? What if YOU (not Elon Musk) were the richest man in the world? But your wife left you. What if you bought a super nice, beautiful home, ...but your kids are a mess. We KNOW that ONENESS is the WIN. You were going for the world's definition of winning, but unfortunately, that is God's definition of losing. The world's definition of winning--riches, power, titles--is God's definition of losing...if we don't have love, if we are not ONE.

That's why here at NHCO we believe that oneness is key. To be ONE is the WIN.

If we know that we've won because we're one, how do we know we've lost? Explain.



We're looking for evidence of His Presence (When God shows up) through being ONE. So now that God has defined the win for us, how do we know if we've LOST? If ONE is how we WIN, then how do we LOSE? Let's read this passage together. Ready go:

"Since you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! ... Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:16, 20 NLT).

From the book of Revelation, Jesus reveals there will be 7 different kinds of churches to look for in the end times. This particular Church was called LAODICEA. And it's a weird church! The people are inside worshiping, teaching, doing church, but where is Jesus? OUTSIDE! "Look!" Jesus says, "I'm standing outside the door of the Church." Poor Jesus is outside KNOCKING, saying, "Hey, guys, can I come in? Remember Me? Jesus. I put the Christ in Christian." How many of us say we are Christian? We have a RELATIONSHIP with the Person of Jesus, but we never acknowledge Him. During meal times, we say some weird prayer like, "Bless this food to our bodies." Do you know the Hebrew prayer before meals? It is NOT to bless the food. The IVRI, the people of Jesus, pray like this: "Baruch ata, Adonai Eloheinu, melekh haolam, hamotsi lechem min ha'aretz." "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the Earth." They don't bless the food. They bless the God who blessed them with the food. At every meal they recognize Him, worship Him, and thank the God whose Presence with them is the reason they have something to eat, so they can live another day. That's why here at New Hope, do you notice we intentionally welcome the Presence of the Lord. We acknowledge that He is the God who dwells within us. And HE is our KING. At every Board meeting, every staff meeting, we declare that HE is the head of the Church. HE builds the Church. New Hope Central Oahu belongs to HIM. We are His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven. Don't be like the Church at Laodicea who left Jesus outside in the rain. Ok, not sure if it was raining. But the point is the Church at Laodicea lost sight of Jesus! They became rich, powerful, and complacent about their relationship with Jesus. Oh, they continued to do church as usual, went through the motions of singing songs, listening to messages. But in their hearts they were NOT on fire. But they weren't cold either. They were the worst state of all: LUKE-WARM. If you're on fire, you know you and Jesus are tight. You live in the center of His will. But if you're cold, you KNOW you're in trouble! And you're like, "God, please help me! I need to go to Church! I need to get prayer! I need to repent!" It's not the best, but at least you're desperate for God. And that's good! But if you're Lukewarm, then you're in for a world of hurt and you don't see it. You keep saying, "I'm good. I'm good." Next thing you know, your spouse left you. But it's not your fault, cuz you're good. It's your spouse's fault! Your kids are a



mess, but that's your spouse's fault too, cuz you're good. The truth is you're just going through the motions of being a Christian, and you left Jesus outside the door of your "church" (your temple) a while ago. How does Jesus feel about Lukewarm Christians? Let's read it again: *"Since you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!" (Revelation 3:16 NLT).*

The Greek word for "spit" is EMEO. A better translation is vomit. Lukewarm Christians make Jesus so emotionally heartbroken He feels nauseous and sick to his stomach. He knows He has lost His connection with you, and the worst part is you don't seem to care. Have you ever loved someone so much and maybe for a long time, and at first they loved you just as passionately, but now they've drifted away from you? You still love them, but they don't feel the same way anymore. That just might be the worst emotional pain of all. And that's how God defines a loss. So how do we know we lost? All bus. How we know we lost? All bus.

The beautiful thing is look at Jesus. He's still knocking on the door of your heart. He's never going to give up on you. He loves you and there's nothing you can do about it. How long are you going to keep Him waiting?

What's our big Action Step to this week's message?

A HEART CHECK. Let the Holy Spirit do open heart surgery on you right now. Let Him search deep in your heart for complacency, half-hearted faith, lukewarmness. And REPENT. Don't beat yourself up. Just tell Jesus, "I'm done being lukewarm, Lord!"

Now listen. The oneness we are contending for corporately--together--as a Church has to be what YOU are contending for, for yourself and your family. You must make GOD'S DEFINITION of the win, YOUR definition of the win. Today we have asked God to DEFINE THE WIN. And how do we know we've won? [Listen] And we defined losing. "How do we know we've lost?" All bus. Now we're all on the same page. We are in alignment. We all know what it means to win as we begin our new series, ONE TEAM. And over the next 6 weeks, I get to play the role of head coach. In this original series, you're going to hear from the rest of our amazing coaching staff. Each one of them is a seasoned expert and a professional communicator. And they are among my closest friends. They all know how God defines the win. But they don't just know it. They live it. Their marriages are outstanding. Their kids are amazing. And they all love Jesus. They don't just talk the talk, they walk the walk. Every one of them is a WINNER in life. That's why I call them the DREAM TEAM. And we put this series together as ONE TEAM, coordinating every message to build on the ones prior. This coaching staff will take us to God's Super



Bowl! But listen, how many coaches win games? ZERO. That's why next week we're going to ask the coach's son, our Teaching Coach, Mark Palompo, to teach us about getting in the game. You don't want to miss next week! Bring your whole family and all your friends. How do we know we've won? We're ONE.

Take a moment to write out your own personal prayer in response to what God revealed to you in this message:

Now let's respond in prayer to what God just said to us: Heads bowed, eyes closed. Would you ask the Lord to search your life right now? Can you honestly say you are winning according to God's definition? Or are you losing? Pray with me. "Father in Heaven, thank you for Jesus. Jesus, thank you for dying for us, filling me with Your Spirit to take me to the Father. I believe in You, God, and I embrace Your Presence in my life, in my family, and in my Church. Now I see that to be ONE is how You define the win. So I repent from any lukewarmness in my life! I hear You knocking and I open the door of my heart to You, Lord! Come in to my life and make Yourself at home. Set me on fire with the power and love of Your Spirit. I declare that You are the King of the Universe and the Lord of my house. Lord, make us ONE CHURCH, ONE TEAM. In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit I pray. Amen."

Alright, saints, we'll see you next week as our ONE TEAM original series continues! One more time, "How do we know we've WON? We're ONE!" ALOOO-HA!