

“CHRIST OVER COVID”

Various Scriptures

The only time in church I’ve hoped for less people!

What is our response to all of this?

Don’t be paralyzed by fear or panic during the pandemic. There are certain things we need to limit in order to use wisdom and consider other. But there are also things we must keep doing in order to stay healthy spiritually and as a Church.

Here are three things we need to keep doing:

I. KEEP CONNECTING (JOHN 15:4-5 & ACTS 2:46)

1. Connected to Christ: Abide & Trust.

- i. *John 15:4–5 (NKJV)*⁴ *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*⁵ *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
- ii. *Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)*⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
- iii. *John 14:1 (NKJV)*¹ *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

2. Connected to Church: Keep Gathering in creative ways from big to small groups. The Church isn’t the building!

- i. Acts 2:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*
- ii. Acts 2:42 (ESV) ⁴² *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*
- iii. “The ancient Greek word koinonia (translated here as fellowship) has the idea of association, communion, fellowship, and participation; it means to share in something. The Christian life is meant to be full of fellowship, of sharing one with another. We share the same Lord Jesus. We share the same guide for life. We share the same love for God. We share the same desire to worship Him. We share the same struggles. We share the same victories. We share the same job of living for Him. We share the same joy of communicating the gospel.” – David Guzik
- iv. Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

II. KEEP INVESTING (GALATIANS 6:2 & 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7)

1. In the lives of others: Invest through serving and selflessness.

- i. Galatians 6:2 (NKJV) ² *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

- ii. Examples: Call people and check in on them. Help technologically challenged people get online, buy groceries for those at risk, support local businesses...
- iii. Don't panic buy all the toilet paper
<https://howmuchtoiletpaper.com/>

2. In the Church: Invest in your community. Don't tighten your fist out of fear.

- i. *2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)* ⁷ *Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.*
- ii. *2 Corinthians 8:2–3 (NLT)* ² *They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.* ³ *For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.*
- iii. “I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.” – Corrie Ten Boom

III. KEEP PROCLAIMING (COLOSSIANS 1:5-6)

- 1. **We have an opportunity to proclaim HOPE! The great commission isn't cancelled due to corona virus.**

- i. Colossians 1:5–6 (NKJV)⁵ *because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*⁶ *which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth*
- ii. The Chinese Christian leader testimony about sharing the gospel
- iii. Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*²⁰ *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*



Discussion Questions – Week 6

**“Christ over Covid”
Various Scriptures**

1. Keep Connecting – How can we stay connected during a time of Crisis like this? What are some practical ideas for our Church?

2. We can't be selfish during corona season. Why do you think people do things like panic buy? Why is it so hard to put others first when you are scared and don't know what is going on?

3. The Bible talks about tithing and giving financially, but what are some other ways we can invest in our Church?

4. This is a great opportunity for us to share the gospel and be a good witness for Christ. Talk about some practical ways you think this could happen?

5. During Corona virus, what do you think is the balance we should have as a Church between protecting people & stopping the spread of the virus, and meeting together regularly? How much should the government influence our decisions?
