

Corona Virus 2020

Intro

The **collective fear and panic** that exists among people across the world is **perhaps at all-time heights**, largely due to our ability to communicate so quickly and so freely

-Coronavirus has had a domino effect:

*on our sense of safety, health, finances

*in the workplace, sports world, entertainment world

*and even on freedom of movement

Perhaps the best way to respond is by taking this threat **seriously** but **not being gripped by fear, panic and anxiety**

I want to speak to you this morning as your pastor concerning about how we as God's people should respond

How should we as Christians respond???

1. Follow the golden rule and consider others as well as ourselves

Matt. 7:12

Phil 2:3-5

Here are some ways we can **“love our neighbor”**

As individuals:

- a) Follow the hygienic precautions being recommended and work together to slow down the spread of this virus

- b) When shopping for food, love your neighbor as yourself and don't take more that you need

- c) Be ready and willing to help others in need
- d) Be patient and supportive of those in leadership, as this is a challenge for all who are called to lead

As churches:

- a) Willingly make the **short-term sacrifice** of not publicly gathering if/ when it will help to prevent the unnecessary spread of this highly contagious virus.
- b) Cooperate with our governmental leaders.
- c) Be ready to step up as a church and help in any way we can.

I am calling for us to follow the lead of the governing authorities and cooperate with what we are being asked to do.

2. Trust in the Sovereignty of God and in His ability to make all things work together for good

Rom. 8:28

Something to Consider:

If you ever doubted whether God can call to the attention of the entire world **One Event**, you certainly shouldn't be doubting that now

As we consider that God is sovereign, let me mention **some of the good things this can bring about:**

- a) An opportunity for our terribly divided country to come together.
- b) An opportunity for us to learn how to fight off things that in the future might be an even deadlier threat.
- c) An opportunity to remove the high places of idolatry that might exist in our lives.
 - though our high places (idols) are much more subtle, they can be nonetheless present

*No March Madness!!! - LOL

Something to Consider:

Since we are all having to give up some things, so let's make sure we replace them with **God-focused things**

d) An opportunity for all of us to enjoy a Sabbath rest.

-we'll probably be having a bit more free time

e) An opportunity to learn how to meet/gather as the church, even when we can't meet.

3. Stay heavenly minded/focused during this time and throughout our lives

How do we stay heavenly minded/focused

a) Remember, everything in this life can be quickly taken away from us

-in fact, everything **will** be taken away from us when we die - that is, except for the treasures we have in heaven

*so stop worrying about temporary things

Matt. 6:33

b) Most of us will not die from this virus

*but all of us will die from the virus of sin

-make sure Christ is the Savior of your life

c) Take advantage of the opportunity you have to grow in your faith as you trust God through these uncertain times

James 1:2-4

e) Pray for those in leadership

I Tim. 2:1-4

e) Share the hope you have in Christ with those who don't have that hope

-maybe next week you can invite a friend or neighbor to church or to your home to watch the livestream

Closing Words:

Look to the future through a “God lens of Hope” and with a heart of prayer

Matt. 7:24-29