

al Topics :: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or stay on lockdown

Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or stay on lockdown - posted by sermo

Saints,

This is a clear word that I believe much of it we can all easily agree with in these times. It is written from a godly sister with good testimony. I encourage brethren to read this post.

Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or stay on lockdown.

Dear Saints at home and abroad,

The Lord's glory and reputation is at stake in this matter of mask wearing especially during gatherings unto Christ and in his name.

Psalm 83: 18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Below are some scriptural reasons the Lord mercifully inspired.

In Hebrews 10:25 The bible clearly exhorts us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together and exhorting one another especially as we see the day approaching,

1. ABOUT MEETING- Should fear of plague or a disease that has less than 5 percent chance of death cause us to refrain from gathering WITH CHRIST and his people? Is that all it takes in the west when our fellow saints in china, Iran, North Korea etc. insist to meet though they face the threat of imminent death and lifelong imprisonment in labor camps?

MASKS- And when we meet should we muzzle our mouths and not sing aloud praises to our God for fear of catching a virus? What kind of God allows his people to catch sicknesses and diseases as they are praising Him?

Psalm 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Only a dead, cruel and powerless god not the God of Israel who dwells with and inhabits his people? Saints let us be careful not to spoil Gods reputation in the eyes of men and our future generations.

DOES WEARING MASKS GLORIFY OR DEFAME GOD?

Scripture teaches us to do all things for Gods glory;

1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

WILL wearing masks GLORIFY CHRIST? By glorify is meant does it help other people to see who God truly is? Does it aid people to truly see the nature, might and worth of our

God? Does it fulfill or hinder the purpose of Christ on earth? The scripture exhorts saints to glorify Christ in all we do. Will people love and have faith in God more when

Christians are wearing masks, fearful of catching sicknesses or spreading plague like sickness as they meet with GOD?

What kind of God will allow his people to catch plague like diseases as they meet with him i.e. gather unto Him? Where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name He is there.

(or is he not?)

If the shadow of Peter could heal sicknesses what can the manifest presence of Christ do?

ANSWER: Perhaps saints we need to reconsider and ask ourselves, is the presence and power of Christ really in our midst? WE need to repent of any way we are not obeying his word and ask Gods presence and power to be restored to his church. No plagues will prevail in his presence or overtake our gatherings if Christ the power of God is present indeed. Let us consider our ways and repent if Ichabod (1 Samuel 4) has occurred in our lives and churches. "the glory of god has left?"

Luke 5:17 "And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the Law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them"

We believers are LIVING EPISTLES (2 Corin.3:1-3) (that the world is daily reading. We are a peculiar people, a people who are called to be a sign and a wonder. Isaiah 8:18. We are called to provoke people primarily to faith in God. Again, if our God cannot even keep a virus from us when we are in his presence worshipping him, what kind of God is that? Certainly not one unbelievers will feel drawn to trust or believe in? Should we be fearful and cowardly and always trust in worldly solutions like masks especially if it hinders us doing Gods commands? If we are fearful and cowardly and no confidence in Gods power and protection what will the sinners do?

2 Corinthians 3:2
2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

We like Israel of old are called to be signs and wonders. Isaiah 8:18 "Behold, I and the children who, the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion."

Is wearing masks in the gatherings with Jesus and saints a sign of faith, trust and belief in Christ? Or is it a sign of fear, mistrust and unbelief? Even if masks and social distancing prevent saints from catching corona like everyone else, will sinners be led to have faith in God more or increase their faith in science and masks more? If only 1 maskless christian who continues to preach, lay hands on sick, gather with saints gets preserved by God from corona it will do more to glorify Gods name than 1000 masked Christians who get kept from church and/or from corona by masks. The masks and doctors and scientists will get all glory as they already are.
Romans 14:23 "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin"
Isaiah 26:4 "Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength;"
Faith without works is dead and the work is to BELIEVE. This is the work that we believe in Him whom he has sent.

2. LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR?
THE GREATEST WAY TO LOVE TO NEIGHBOR IS PREACH
THE GOSPEL not staying away for fear of sickness or death- There are some accepting devil inspired wisdom and wisdom of seducing spirits saying LOVE IS when Christians wear masks. Wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart is showing love to your neighbor. Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves saints. The greatest love is laying down our lives for the brethren. John 15:13 Risking death and sickness to preach the gospel is the greatest love I can show to my fellow man. The greatest good I can do for my neighbor is telling the truth of the good news which sets free and brings eternal life. Preaching the gospel and drawing near to our neighbor is love, not staying away. The good samaritan did not see the bleeding man as unclean nor stayed 6 feet away. The pharisees and levites did so. Jesus said and is still saying beware of the leaven of pharisees. We are commanded to preach the gospel and to lay hands on and heal the sick. Believers are commanded to heal the sick and see them recover. Obeying Gods command is showing love to the brethren. By this we know we love the brethren, when we obey God and keep his commandments. To obey is to lay hands on the sick and see them recover not wearing mask and keeping 6 feet apart. Perfect love casts out fear because fear has torment. Matthew 10:8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:1 "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

Luke 9:1-2. "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:9 "And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."

Acts 4:29-31 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatening: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Servants of God must practice the laying on of hands when we need to. Social distancing will not permit us to fully practice this. Laying on of hands for anointing the sick with oil and healing them, ordaining ministers, praying for someone, imparting a gift.

Mark 16:18 "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Jesus touched people with contagious diseases, like leprosy. At that time, the law of the land was that lepers could not interact with the rest of society because of

the level of contagion. However, Jesus touched them. Jesus did not follow that law. He knew who he was. Do we know who He is? For we claim he dwells in us and

he is the same yesterday today and forever. The lepers were not rebuked by him (nor reminded about social distancing or the law by him) for coming close to him.

Matthew 8: 2,3 "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Luke 4:40

Beloved now is a perfect opportunity to share the gospel to those that are looking for hope and a way out of fear that torments.. 1 John 4: "Fear hath torment" Christ's perfect love in us will compel us to want to cast this fear out of others.

3. Should CHRISTIANS SHOULD OBEY ALL AUTHORITY, GOOD OR BAD?.

Should Shadrach Meshach Abednego have obeyed the king to bow down to idols? Should the wise men have obeyed King Herod and told the king where the

baby Jesus was? Should Peter and Paul have stopped preaching in the name of Jesus when the spiritual authorities ie pharisees said so?

Some argue bible commands Christians to obey authorities in Romans 13"this is true yes but remember we obey authorities in the Lord and to the lord. But when authorities are not submitted to God and make laws that conflict with Gods law and even sometimes promote evil, we obey GOD rather than man as the apostles said. You judge if we should obey man rather than God.

Jesus said of Herod the KING i.e. authority "Go tell that fox" i.e. Herod was a deceptive and proud ruler who said he wanted one thing yet had wicked godless

motives and intentions. Eg To kill the baby Jesus though claiming he wanted to go and worship him. Jesus

Himself called king Herod a fox and God Himself commanded the wise men not to obey the kings command. (not to go back and tell him where the baby was)

AGENDA/MOTIVES OF CURRENT LAW MAKERS in USA

In leadership right now in our nation, some that are in authority are rebellious lawbreakers and are not following the guidelines of the president or the current administration or constitution. Many mandates of the local authorities are against the legal agreed on law of the land and the US constitution. Many including the president and other law abiding govt officials have pointed out these lawless lawmakers have ungodly personal motives and political ungodly even devilish influenced agendas.

Jesus said his church should be wise as serpents but innocent as doves. We should be able to identify and reject the devices of satan and the many ways he will try to ensnare and undermine the church's power. We should walk in the spirit and be spiritually discerning or woe is us in these last days. Fear of man or govt will be a snare but fear of God Almighty will keep us safe.

ARE WE TRUSTING SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS WORDS MORE THAN SCRIPTURES?

The science behind the mask and lockdowns have been admittedly wrong many times and keep changing. There is even now currently a division among the medical professions about the effectiveness of the mask. Many are saying it weakens the immune system making one susceptible to other diseases. Plus, current data states that the mortality rate of the virus is about 1-2%, survival rate of 98.54%, some say the mortality rate is 0.2% yet the measures are devilish and could cause more harm than good in church society and families. Let God be true and every man a liar. We will trust Him and his healing word.

CONCLUSION

Dear Saints, We the born again blood bought saints of God are called to be an extraordinary people, indwelt by Christ, Christ in us the hope of glory, this Christ who is called the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:24) dwells within saints by faith. Saints are indwelt by a supernatural God and through the Holy Spirit are endued with supernatural power over sickness and even death. Our Christ is our ETERNAL SAVIOR. He is an AMAZING HEALER, A GREAT PROTECTOR, OUR MIGHTY FORTRESS, A STRONG AND MIGHTY TOWER, HIS NAME OUR REFUGE, THE GREAT PHYSICIAN, THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE. HE IS ALL THIS AND MORE. Let the lives of the church declare it so to the world lest we be found to be liars and offend our God. We are to obey good laws and authorities that do not cause us to violate our Christian consciences or break God's laws. Jesus said many will come in his name and deceive many in the last days, that can include some governments or government officials saints. Vile men and women will be exalted in the land in the last days and satan will stop at nothing to get them to make the church ineffective by twisting the scriptures. Let us Be sober, be vigilant for our adversary the devil cause around like a roaring lion. As they made laws for Daniel and Shadrach and friends even now it is so and will become increasingly more so. Let us continue to obey and give honor to whom honor is due but we shall not be ignorant of satan the angel of lights devices against the body of Christ.

ANSWER? Our Churches need the presence and power of God. The power of God should be present to heal the sick in our gatherings. Again, if people can get sick with corona etc. in our services, it is a sign we need to repent and go back to the place of God's power and presence. Peter shadow healed the sick, what will Jesus manifest presence in our midst do?

May Christ be glorified, and His wisdom and power be magnified in his Church in the last days brethren.

Grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits. Amen.

Prayer

(A Song or Psalm of Asaph.)

1. Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.

They have taken crafty counsel against thy people and consulted against thy hidden ones.

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:

The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison:

Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth.

Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna:

Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession.

O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind.

As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; 15 So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm.

16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. 17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish:

18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Hebrews 10:21-25

And having an high priest over the house of God;

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Exodus 15:26 "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in

his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Amen.

Sis Maggie

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/23 12:38

//What kind of God will allow his people to catch plague like diseases as they meet with him i.e. gather unto Him? Where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name He is there.

(or is he not?)//

It's already happened plenty of times, so you tell me. Whole choirs have been infected.

If a person doesn't want to wear a mask in church I could care less but they can't complain or blame God if they get sick or pass it on to at risk family members. The virus does not magically fall out of people's bodies as they enter the building. It is wishful thinking to think churchgoers are miraculously immune.

I personally won't be attending church in person, even with a mask, until all this dies down. I agree online church is obviously not ideal, but our online Bible study is actually as good as it is in person.

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2020/7/23 12:38

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2020/7/23 12:38

John Lake Protected From Bubonic Plague:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/everestalexander.wordpress.com/2015/10/18/john-g-lake-bubonic-plague-testimony/amp/>

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/23 13:05

Mike-

Not 100% sure what your point is. Neither I nor any reasonable Christian would say God does not sometimes protect his followers.

At the same time thousands of Christians die every year from disease.

Covid-19 is a disease that Christians can catch.

Are you saying they can't? If so then I guess the test for true faith is susceptibility to Covid-19.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/7/23 18:31

TMK, Overall I have to agree with you here while understanding Greg's Concerns.

The question here is Has this gone too far and is this a deliberate attempt to halt our spiritual freedom in Christ by Satan and a deliberate attempt to halt our religious freedoms by our Government?

On the first one we can be sure Satan has a hand in this no doubt. Yes by some government and no by others.

I do not like the idea of wearing masks on the one hand because here we are a shining light to the world preaching the power and healing of Christ and we don't seem to be as powerless as anyone else.

On the other hand I don't think wearing masks has crossed the line of being persecuted but has put possible future persecution on the table or in the ballpark.

Where is the Line Then you may ask?

For me the line is biblical and it's a thing God hates.

The thing God hates is for his people to be counted.

The passage where Satan caused David to count the people is very revealing about the end times and about God's view of the Church. The church and the final amount of people in the Church are for God to know and no one else. As David found out when he counted what did not belong to him the consequences were pretty dire.

I don't believe they have crossed the line with masks but I won't attend church if I have to sign, become an official church member or if I have to sign in for the case of coronavirus. So I won't get involved in the counting of Christians that's for God to know not me or David, your staff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/23 18:50

Christians wear seatbelts because risk of harm from an auto accident is real. A Christian does not HAVE to wear a seat belt but they may get a ticket if they don't and they may fly through the windshield in a bad wreck.

I don't see the difference. Obviously if there was no Covid virus, masks would not be necessary. But because the risk is real- like the risk of getting into a car accident is real, we wear a mask.

I don't see how logically the two scenarios are different. All kinds of precautions are taken against known risks. I don't think it's a lack of faith or a sign of weakness to use our brains.

Why all of a sudden is this virus a spiritual issue instead of simply a medical issue?

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/7/23 20:24

Hi Tmk,

I agree with you on the practicalities of Corona virus and of course you are right where we find ourselves is with a disease that we have to take precautions against.

It becomes a spiritual issue because the way many of the politicians are using the virus to cause mayhem and anarchy. These politicians and related media are clearly with doubt in my opinion being influenced by principalities and powers. I have never seen politicians and media being so overtly evil.

So we are walking a fine line in doing what is practical and right to do to stop covid and watching and fighting a force that is very evil and using our predicament to spread chaos and would in a flash stop Christian worship, it's the classic Rock and a hard place but Jesus is our Rock is the redeeming factor, staff

P.s Over the years I have argued as many know against finding persecution behind every stone and am not a post tribulationist as many are on SI. However although I will do like you follow medical and practical advice I also realize there is an amazing evil force at play at the moment, a force we haven't seen in our lifetimes so I am vigilant too.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2020/7/24 7:06

Quote:

-----I also realize there is an amazing evil force at play at the moment

Amen brother, I believe anyone with spiritual eyes to see can see there is evil in the background of all of this.

Ephesians 6:10-13 KJV

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darknesses of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Re: 99% survival rate - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/7/24 9:08

this has to be one of the greatest shams of all time...

100 the enemy has fingerprints all over it...

he came to kill, steal, and destroy- just look around

Tend to agree with the OP at least in general. If people that identify as Christians wear a mask in faith that would be different than people wearing one in fear,... that would by definition be sin. The way to tell the difference is when someone is wearing a mask in faith towards God, they aren't requiring that you wear one also. When a person is acting in fear, that triggering of their self-preservation mechanism, they desire control so they will naturally require you to wear one too and use every agency available to make you do it (even tho it says on the box it doesn't protect against this flu).

There are cases of Christians who might need to be more cautious but that has more to do with their spiritual health and less with their physical health.

If someone wants to wear a mask at church, I personally wouldn't restrict them from doing so,... however to require that everyone does is a gross overreact and signals an end in itself to the self-governance of the Church as we knew it :(

If the media didn't hype this flu up, it would not have had this effect- full stop.

Everyone knows it, whether they admit it to themselves or not. They (med officials) are and were wrong about EVERY single prediction and yet people continue to listen and follow them.

This has been incentivized monetarily for the medical community to participate in this obviously planned event. It's only a step towards a definitive end whereby a greater destruction (also planned) occurs. We are (mostly) all playing along and pretending that things which aren't true are true by virtue of masses of people collectively participating in it (albeit for differing reasons)... mass deception is afoot and I'll prove it right now to every reader of this post-

â€œIf the medical community said in concert that the ONLY way to avoid contracting this virus was to smoke cigarettes and the governmentâ€™s required via mandates that everyone comply and smoke them,... would you all be so quick to comply? â€œ

James 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

It's a lie!!! From the father of lies !!

But we have been so slack, so worldly in our practice of faith- conditioned over decades to act just like the unbelieving that it's not difficult for most to conform to the image of the world, which is precisely what is happening... aka; the great falling away :(

This is not different and not separate from Americans pretending that J Biden isn't sliding down the slippery slope of dementia.... which he obviously and undeniably is and couldn't run a register at Baskin Robbins for a week so how pray-tell could he run the world's most powerful military and largest economy ?? To even suggest he has a capable is an affront to all honest and rational people everywhere, yet we are all silent and compliant because we fear man more than we fear God and that my dear brothers and sisters will be charged to our accounts. This is the same â€œspellâ€ that leads to people pretending that gender is a social construct and not a biological reality, there really is no difference in that they are both lies from the pit of hell and are given life through the belief (denial of conscience) and the participation (silence) of the masses... this road leads to one place - destruction:(

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2020/7/24 11:47

Perhaps this COVID 19 pandemic is a sham and a work of the evil one, but my father passed away from the COVID 19 virus on JULY 5TH. I was with him as he took his last breath, and watched the effects of this "sham" undermine his ability to eat, drink, and eventually even swallow.

While caring for him, I myself contracted the virus and it nearly took my own life. I am still dealing with the after effects of the virus.

My father wore a mask, and sought to be reasonably cautious, but when he became infected, the virus quickly crippled his body. I contracted the virus while caring for him.

Unless you personally have known those who have lost a loved one and or had a serious case of the virus yourself, it is easy to develop all kinds of theories.

mak

Re: brother Mak - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/7/24 12:25

Have you had a loved one eaten alive from the inside out by cancer, leukemia etc....?

I have as well as dementia and while I can personally relate to and empathize with your loss, are you suggesting that you would support a global lockdown to stop the spread of those diseases?

Or better yet, how about heart disease ... (the number one killer) should the medical community be authorized to ban latte and McDonalds ?

I'm not saying there isn't a flu like contagion that has extreme effects for a very small amount of people.... what I am saying is that there is obviously a sham being perpetrated on the public by media, health officials and anyone else ideologically aligned with the deception of the enemy-

So to be clear, it's not the flu that is a sham- it is the response and coordinated forced compliance.

Re: YOU SAY WHOLE CHOIRS HAVE BEEN INFECTED? FROM SISTER MARGIE - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/24

"Dear Saints, I humbly come here today in obedience to the Lord. His Spirit constrained me this morning to come and reply to certain ones who responded to the article. True Saints, Let us beware. Remember our Lord's words. John 6:44 "But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.' Some will cast off faith and betray Jesus and true saints in these last days. Let us please remember " 1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..; 2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the POWER THEREOF, FROM SUCH TURN AWAY. Just like in every church in America some if not many of this beautiful God provided forum have inwardly turned away from the faith and are just really what you will call agnostics. Meaning they think God may or may not save his people, God may or may not hear prayers, God may or may not heal... Faithless and perverse generation... May God help us. Where there is sin and perversion in the church or our lives there will be no living faith. 1 Timothy 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.' And where there are idols in our lives and no passionate love for Jesus there will also be no living faith, I mean a faith with evidence, with works "faith that can believe God for healing or even raising the dead..' Galatians 5:6 "Faith that works by love." Repentance is needed for church, not mandating masks. "Whole choirs have been infected. " Ask how many choir members in the USA are involved in immorality, fornication etc? Do you think MAJORITY OF our choirs are so holy and full of obedient people? According to Christianity today over 50 percent of pastors admit struggling with looking at wrong pictures.

Yes Again, if whole choirs can be infected while singing praises in our churches we need to go back and see what is wrong, for all through the bible God kept his people from plagues except when they had sinned or were not obeying Him." Judgment begins in the house of God. Mandating Masks in church now is not the answer, only a small patch on a big wound, for the church we need genuine repentance. READ 2 Kings 25 Jeremiah declared judgment was coming to Jerusalem. Furthermore once Jeremiah decreed judgement for sin was coming in several instances, God's people tried to escape to other nations for their lives instead of facing, repenting and bearing the consequences of their sin. The prophet told them don't go stay here and it will be well with you though you may suffer etc but they tried to save their lives not repent and were destroyed. Same way even now, churches and saints who think instead of repenting and crying out for God's power in our lives and churches, they think not assembling as church, social distancing, not preaching the gospel and not singing praise in church, muzzle mouths with masks is going to save us. No dear saints, THIS ONLY furthers THE disobedience that most churches/christians in the west has been living in already. I humbly say it has potential to only add fuel to God's grief and anger with his people. Mandating Vaccine or mask for church members is not our answer for people

catching viruses in church services in Christ's presence. Repentance of personal and corporate sin and a restoration of God's power and presence is what is needed. Those who reject repenting and seek to run to Egypt for help will find that greater judgment will still come in another way for any help from Egypt comes at a price, either send leanness to one's soul, killing the faith that's already almost dead or sorrows from hands pierced by leaning on the staff of Egypt. Isa 36:6 "Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him." Beloved saints, Let us repent and the power of our God will be present again to heal us and we will see and show his glory to the world. Grace peace and love to all who love our Christ sincerely.

AMEN. - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/24 15:29

Amen Brother and let me be clear that saints still weak in faith may feel the need to wear masks etc, we do not condemn. It's like the meat issue, one more mature says I am free I can eat meat, the other younger in faith and weaker says I cannot eat will wound my conscience. Both are accepted before the Lord. Both are acting according to the measure of faith they have. I am talking specifically about a whole church MANDATING MASKS or even ministers of the gospel using masks in church, there is no excuse but fear and unbelief. May God help us for without faith it is impossible to please God. And if ministers are filled with fear then it will be the faithless leading a people called to be full of faith. God help us. But we have a high priest.. Whose name is faithful and true, the WORD of God. We will listen to Him. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God, He is our HOPE, OUR ANCHOR IN THESE troublesome days.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/24 15:32

SisterMargie- your "theology" stinks.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/24 16:33

Mak-

I am very sorry to hear about your father. I have parents (75 and 79) in the hot zone in FL.

Praying that you will continue to make a full recovery.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/7/24 17:23

Hi All,
I have heard in the posts nothing to convince me that TMK is wrong in his views regarding the virus and the need to take precautions.

This is not a lack of faith by no means or a spirit of fear but good stewardship.

Is their absolute evil behind this yes most definitely, Is it effecting our politicians and media 100 percent it is.

Are the enemies motivated evil and from the pit of hell for sure. Is this illness unlike other illnesses again I am sure it is because powers and dominions behind it.

The thing is that both can be true and correct at the same time taking practical precautions and being vigilant about the enemy and his plans at the moment but wearing masks or not wearing masks is not about faith or fear, staff

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/7/24 17:30

Condolences

Makrothumia at this horrible time for you. You did great by your Father by looking after him and it's something you will never regret and will be proud of.

It's easy for everyone to be theoretical about the virus when it doesn't effect us first hand. I am glad you were present right up to the end and I think the most devastating stories are about people who were saying goodbye by iPhones etc. It's truly heartbreaking. We at SI are praying for your recovery and your time of grief in the Name of the Saviour Jesus, Amen
urs
staff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/24 17:39

I just want to be clear that I am 100% on board that the media, left wing politicians are using this virus and the BLM issue to further ungodly agendas. I speak out about this almost daily. I am convinced there is gross over reporting of Covid deaths and a couple of news stories out of FL in the last week prove this out.

Nonetheless we cannot deny this virus is again spreading rampantly and to me it is simply stupid and incredibly naive to not take precaution.

However I am not a mask Nazi- I could care less what other people do. But if I am indoors at a store I will have a mask on until this dies down.

Sister Margie seems to be of the Word of Faith ilk that says those with enough faith don't get sick and die. Extreme poppycock and silliness as the greatest Christians who ever lived who were born up to the 1920s or so are now dead.

Re: brother Todd - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/7/24 19:02

Yours is not an unreasonable position and am not against you nor the position the Lord has you in to be His witness. Also I tend to agree with that last bit of sarcasm

as the greatest Christians who ever lived who were born up to the 1920s or so are now dead.

Would you be willing to consider that other believers see that this is the case and it's because we fumbled the ball,... and now, tho facing a more daunting task, we have another opportunity to advance to Kingdom and the Scriptures say God is all in... so for some there is a fire inside to take the gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and running with it, set the whole world ablaze for Him by bearing the light of His presence.

Every generation faces defining moments, (challenges) and how they're responded to determines in large part the framework of the next generations landscape or environment, (Spiritually, socially, culturally, governmentally etc..)

So in order for people to do that under the direction Holy Spirit, they have to set themselves aside or crucified and allow Him to lead us in His path, otherwise we're just walking our own path with a Jesus t-shirt on.

It's understandable that this might seem unreasonable or even delusional by more pragmatic perspectives, but for those whom practice faith in this way it is the only reasonable option in existence.

I don't belong to me,... He bought me and any willful actions on my part are effectively denying Him the right to His purchase, even and especially self-preservation. He who seeks to save his, life shall lose it but he who gives it for His name shall find it

Personally it's somewhat like being a donkey that carries the light of His life to whom ever He says, whenever He says. He knows the needs of His sheep and meets them before they ask but we can't hear Him so well when we are in command, making our own decisions based on our perspectives because we're not really listening as one whom seeks to be commanded, people tend to go to God more for guidance and approval, often we actually tell God what to do, ... much like Martha but Jesus is seeking Mary's

So mask or no mask Jesus is Lord of all

Re: - posted by Caleb4life (), on: 2020/7/24 19:43

Sister Margie! Thank you for heeding the Spirit's prompting to post here. I praise the Lord for His fire burning in you.

Brother Todd! The way you responded to sister Margie grieved me. Yet at the same time, I appreciate how consistent and sincere you are with sharing your perspective and convictions.

Brother Fletcher! Your post resonated so much with my spirit. Full stop.

Brother Mak! My heart aches and yet rejoices with you all at once, and Staff said it so well about how you surely did the right thing by faith.

Staff! Thanks for sharing your heart and thoughts. Your peacemaking by faith, while maintaining a clear conscience on conviction is refreshing.

I praise God that He has appointed all of us to be alive on this earth for such a time as this, and Greg, bless you brother for your faithfulness in keeping this forum open (which we know is all the grace of God).

Love you all so much and I can only imagine what these interactions would be like if and when we are together in person

May we conduct ourselves as if we were. ✪•✪, •

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/24 21:24

//The way you responded to sister Margie grieved me.//

I guess Iâ€™m getting too old to beat around the bush. Actually Iâ€™m not THAT old but I canâ€™t stand by and read such WOF nonsense without saying something. To the uninitiated it may sound so wonderful and so spiritual but nonetheless it is nothing but lies and very harmful to the body of Christ.

Re: - posted by Caleb4life (), on: 2020/7/24 23:29

Dear brother Todd, have you met sister Margie or read other of her writings before? Or are you dealing with the same context as I am, which are her few posts here? To me, you are coming across extremely dismissive of this sister who is pouring out her heart with what sounds like very sincere and inspired concern.

Also, after looking more closely, I realize I may have been confused. Is Sis Maggie who Gregâ€™s OP references the same as sister Margie who posted in the thread twice thereafter?

That aside, I am absolutely not an advocate of WOF teaching/doctrines, brother (as I understand them). Iâ€™m just not seeing how you construed her posts as such. But even if she is into that, are you pleased with your candor brother?

Love you Todd and would hug you if we were together in person, if you would let me, social distancing be damned.

Re: - posted by SteveHale (), on: 2020/7/24 23:38

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to SHRINK FROM DEATH. Revelation 12:11

There was a time in John Wesley's life that he faced death and he shrank from it. He realised that all his "christian" life up to that point was a figment of his imagination, even though he was a missionary to the indians in america. He sought God after this point of his life and was born again, but the pivotal point was the fear of death he had on the ship.

Maybe God is using this virus to shake up those who have been playing games, not really born again. The fact that they are fearful is evidence that they know not God! Giving them time to repent and give their life to Him before it is too late. May we have ears to hear for time is short and this is just the start to the shakings we are all about to see come upon the earth.

But the COWARDLY/FEARFUL, the UNBELIEVING, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. Revelation 21:8

Blessings Steve

Re: - posted by followthelamb, on: 2020/7/25 7:45

Edited.

I was just reading some of the posts on this thread and though I'm sure she and I might have some differences in doctrine if we sat down to go over it all, Greg and I do know Margie personally. She is an unknown missionary, among other things, who has given her her whole life--every aspect of it-- absolutely sacrificially to Christ without reserve.

She is a sister in Christ who in time of our need or sickness, rather than mention it at a prayer meeting (although that is a blessing too!) has actually gone into prayer for hours or longer -- with fasting. As far as the "word of faith" movement, no she is no part of that. But she does have absolutely faith in His word and trembles at it.

May we all have grace and love one another fervently and bear long with each other in these days of social distancing and division.

Dear Alan and Dina, we are SO sorry to hear of your loss . ((Thank you)) for helping us all see another, very personal side to this, and the need to be so tender and considerate of those for whom this is hitting so close to home...

Praying for everyone on this forum... love to you all. God is faithful.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/25 9:02

My main beef is with this statement: "What kind of God allows his people to catch sicknesses and diseases as they are praising Him?"

There is very improper theology behind that statement that essentially leads to the rest of her assertions. Is it really necessary to go back through the ages and list all the great saints who died prematurely from sickness and disease? What about all the other horrible things that happen to real and true Christians on a daily basis?

And the idea that it is "cowardly" to wear a mask is absurd. Is it cowardly for Christians to put on sunscreen, wear a seatbelt, have fire alarms and extinguishers, learn how to swim, wear insect repellent, get medical checkups, stop at stop signs, avoid snarling pit bulls, wear eye protection when warranted, take prescribed medication, stay hydrated in the heat etc etc etc?

No- these are common sense things with ZERO spiritual component. I'll even go out on a limb and say that even Jesus took some precautions in his carpentry shop.

Jesus told the devil that doing stupid, potentially harmful things and expecting God to save you was "putting God to the test." Needless to say he did not throw himself off the temple roof.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2020/7/25 9:13

Since I have developed over the past years, a powerful prayer life, and have the time in my life now, to almost continually pray and talk to God, my response to this thread, will be all about prayer. While some may give in to cynicism and think there is nothing we can do, let's not forget the power of prayer.

Prayer is the exact prescription the Bible gives us to cure anxiety. It's easy to want to look at all the news outlets and overthink all the possible negative outcomes that can take place. All that will do is rob us of the peace God promises us. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

We can panic, or we can pray, but we can't do both. Jesus called His church a house of prayer, and now is our time. It's time to pray for God's intervention to stop the spread of this disease. It's time to ask for healing. It's time to ask for peace and comfort for those who have lost loved ones. It's time for us to ask for direction and discernment for our leaders and our homes. Prayer is powerful and effective, and if we are too busy panicking instead of praying, we forfeit our greatest strength.

In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, we have the power to choose our response. When we choose faith over fear, w

Wisdom over worry, and prayer over panic, we can experience the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding. In doing so, we become the light of Christ in a very dark situation.

God bless you dear Brother T/ Saints Beware of dogs vipers and GOVT foxes - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 9

Brother you do not know me but there are some here who have known my life and testimony for many years including Greg Gordon and wife. I am what I am by God's grace and do not judge even myself yes. Christ will be my defender on that great eternal day of accounting. I will say this for now. I am a 42 year old Virgin who loved Jesus so much I gave my whole life to him at age of 17 as a fulltime missionary. I recently returned back from Kenya and I am here because the Lord told me stay and pray for revival. I live completely by faith like George Mueller trusting only in the Lord for every need doing full-time missionary work in USA and abroad. I also guide a missionary training center and mission house dedicated to day and night prayer. I believe in modesty purity, ie ideally I think couples should share first kiss even after marriage. See how ancient in views I am O but what peace and security it wroughts in the soul. . Following the ancient words of faith in the scriptures. Word of faith I am not, if you mean those who deny reality. I just believe in Gods truth and facts more than any other truth or facts. TRUTH is God will heals and is a healer and loves to heal his people./people. It will be unto us all according to our faith. I was healed by God at the age of 17 and now 42 and I have never taken a single pill after that till this day. Jesus has kept me in divine health as I've trusted Him. I have lived like like George Mueller and Jesus has never failed me. So No brother I am not word of faith, not sure who they are, not interested, may God save and sanctify them if unsaved, BUT I believe completely in God's word written in the Holy Scriptures. . I have experienced the healing I speak of not just living in a fantasy land of untruth and denying reality, believing you are sick but claiming you are well no. I have prayed for many saints to be healed this time with no social distancing from any saint and God mercifully has done so even those with corona. Yesterday I personally cooked food and took lunch and dinner to a dear Christian family to a family with corona symptoms, prayed God will heal and strengthen them as they eat, which happened. Then went to a hutterite family and did 5 hours prayer and testimony/christian exhortation. then 2 hours praying for the dismantling and exposing of Muslim brotherhood activities in the USA by God's grace, I esteem humility so speaking like a fool here as Paul says but you boast of how good your online bible study is, , this is love for saints brother, risking our lives for them not sitting in front of online screen posting on sermon index unbelief. Calling faith nonsense. Spiritual things are foolishness to the natural or carnal, they cannot receive it, because they are spiritually discerned. We should love the saints in deed not just from my online screen. I write these things to say brother my ancient what you call bad theology views has kept me and others full of faith and unspeakable joy and confidence even in times like this. Right now I minister in Africa, busa and among Amish people whom God is saving and strengthening with his scriptures and filling with his Holy Ghost. I guarantee what I posted was led by the Lord and not harmful to anyone but Satan and unclean spirits who wants saints to live in fear and unbelief. I want to respond humbly in a Christlike manner but still speak the truth. Jesus help. Brother consider what I say here for I will type no more responses after this though tempting . Again I am not word of faith but I do believe in Gods word literally and wholeheartedly and in my Lord fully. What I have written I have written. I do not know you but brother you say you speak in such an unChristlike way it's because you are old. Truth is the older spiritual saints get the more peaceable wisdom you will have and you will have the tongue of the learned to know how to speak to other younger saints or women. You will respect and nurture the faith of weaker vessels. Which include Sisters or children. I'm sad to say it brother but I believe your speech sounds like the worldly liberals of the world today. and carnal. Do you spend too much time on worldly or liberal news? Instead of fellowshiping with saints? that's one of the results if you do. Liberals attack the personhood of people they do not agree with. Brother you also said you will not gather in church with or without mask until all this is over. That your online Bible studies is just as good. O brother, how sad and telling. When will that be? Some do not value the gathering of saints nor see the worth of obeying God's commands. Do you truly have the interests of Christ at heart? If you did you will encourage saints to gather even if some need masks. Yet you say you wont go to church at all until all this is over? When will that be? I beseech you to Show more concern for Christ's will on earth. It is his will that his saints gather with him displaying the fruits of the spirit and exercising the gifts of the spirit. Yet you say you are concerned this article that exhorts saints to have faith and trust God and gather will hurt people? Satan is a deceiver. And angel of light who will deceive even saints when not walking in intimacy with Christ. Beware. Brother I humbly ask all saints to consider in this day, am I in a good earnest spiritual state right now, if not I fear carnal or worldly unChristlike attitude and words will hurt saints if left here unchecked. I love you in Christ dear saints including our Brother Todd. I remind all to keep eyes on Jesus. Church awake. Be that glorious church again. O innocent lambs of Christ. Beware of dogs, backsliders, vipers, religious Pharisees meaning to take all life out of you and foxes, government officials wanting to trick and deceive you. Cling to your Christ. Now More than ever before. Like little children. With all your heart. Cling to his word and be full of childlike faith and trust. CLING. Insist to see Jesus. Let no man or woman block your way. Lay hold unto eternal life. Cut off hand feet eyes anything that will cause you to sin. Behold HE COMES!

Re: - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 9:25

First of all the article was written in response to a church considering mandating masks for everyone. If weaker Christians in faith feel they need masks in church there is no condemnation. But Older mature believers full of faith trusting God should not be mandated to wear masks violating their conscience. It's very simple, any sincere spiritual saint can understand these words. Like Jesus said, Why is it that you cannot understand my speech, even because ye cannot hear my word. When we listen to the voice of strangers we cannot hear God's word of faith. No I'm not word of faith though Yes Faith comes by hearing and hearing by God's word. I kindly ask that you cease your liberal godless attacks brother. There are better, more edifying Christlike ways to communicate truth.

Re: SisterMargie - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2020/7/25 9:42

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."
Proverbs 3:7

"Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"
Isaiah 5:21

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness . . . Therefore let no man glory in men"
1 Corinthians 3:18-19,

We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth a ny thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."1 Corinthians 8:1b-2, KJV

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."
1 Corinthians 13:2, KJV

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness . . . Therefore let no man glory in men . . . And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? no w if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"
1 Corinthians 3:18-19, 4:6-7

"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."
1 Timothy 1:6-7, KJV

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."
Proverbs 16:18, KJV

"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."
Luke 14:11, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God . . . Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
James 4:7a, 10, KJV

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"
1 Peter 5:6, KJV

Re: - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 9:46

Dear Saint, Your precaution is to wear masks etc and to follow CDC guidelines and guidelines the world tells you to do, Our PRECAUTION is to be careful not to offend God with unbelief, fear and Mistrust. And especially NOT to defame his character as the God who is unable to protect his people from plagues as they worship him together. God forbid. That is not our God. His truly obedient children Faith filled children will not catch plagues as they obey to gather and worship him. If you believe otherwise, its your choice but be it unto each one according to their faith. And another PRECAUTION is to LISTEN keenly to WHAT GOD is saying to do in these days. What God says..that is wisdom and life. To use the words stupid, silly etc to describe saints position of faith you disagree with only sounds like worldly carnality and anger and needs to be repented of brother. I will not say you are carnal, let God judge but your words sound, carnal, and angry and attacking. thereby not edifying or profitable to anyone. Does Not sound like it's truth coming from a heart filled with love and gentleness. May God open all our eyes. May repentance come.

Re: HOW CHristians TALK TO SAINTS/WOMEN or Men or even children - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 10:56

Thank you Brother Bill. Praise God. I pray all my life and testimony will be submissive to these scriptures. I pray God continues to give me grace to take heed and be obedient to these scriptures all my life. As for receiving these right now, Jesus speaks truth but a bruised reed will he not break. I was just really wondering where are all the true Christlike men/brothers when a brother is using words like stink stupid etc to talk to a sister. Do you see that as right brother? Were you grieved by it? Did you address the brother with truth and warnings? It is one matter to correct a wrong doctrine of your think its wrong which in this case cannot be proven wrong biblically, but using words like stink stupid silly etc with a sister was not necessary or like Christ. I hope saints do not speak like that to our wives or children when we do not agree? This was my first experience to hear a christian brother who claims to be spiritual and able to judge christian doctrine or attitudes speak that way to a sister and I was shocked and my heart was wounded (for a few minutes though I will not get offended, since Psalm 119:165 is true, also Christs words of healing through some other saints brought peace and health) It truly was just someone abusing or belittling/bullying/dismissing a sister with no evidence and truly no excuse. It was not done in the right spirit nor influenced by right spirits. Correction in love is what Christ does when saints are wrong. Using words like stink stupid are what worldly unsaved liberals do to make people cower submit to their worldly liberal socialist etc beliefs. Im surprised only 1 or 2 brothers here saw anything wrong with a brother talking like that to a sister and to speak the truth that transforms to him? Well Praise God for brother Caleb. I know Joshua our Jesus and Caleb did so praise God. Did you our dear brother Bill see anything wrong with that? Are these scriptures meant only for the weaker vessels or for both? Again I do not understand why I only was addressed here brother but thank you for the scriptures. Let us not err or judge from appearances but make righteous judgements led by Gods Spirit, CHristian love and truth. I appreciate your concern and scriptures. I will always humble myself where truth of scriptures are presented, not just opinions.

Re: Praise God - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 11:03

Thank you Sister. Testimony was a blessing. Thank you also for reminding us about the personal losses of many. Deeply feel the pain of true members of Christ. Praying for Alan and Dina now and comfort and grace for those mourning in his body in these days. You are loved in HIm as is every other blood bought saint. Sincerely, your sister, M.

Re: - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 11:09

Maybe God is using this virus to shake up those who have been playing games, not really born again. The fact that they are fearful is evidence that they know not God! Giving them time to repent and give their life to Him before it is too late. May we have ears to hear for time is short and this is just the start to the shakings we are all about to see come upon the earth.

Amen Brother. Yes. Its time to get truly saved/born again if death is still so fearful and if backslidden its time to repent and return to our loving heavenly father who will in no wise cast us out while we are still alive. God give me/ grace us all grace to do so these last days.. Bless you Brother Steve.

RE: The effect of righteousness is Peace / Minnesota - posted by SisterMargie, on: 2020/7/25 11:30

Thank you brother. You shall know saints by their fruits. Your grace truth and love in Christ and peacemaking grace brought healing and grace. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." Isaiah 32:17

Also, after looking more closely, I realize I may have been confused. Is Sis Maggie who Greg's OP references the same as sister Margie who posted in the thread twice thereafter?

Yes brother it is me.

Brother do you live in Minnesota? If you still do I thank God. We need saints of God there so glad you are there praying. May God save Minnesota. its quickly become a muslim stronghold. May God save many there and pour out his spirit there.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/25 11:37

Sister Margie-

I do apologize for coming on too strong. It is nothing personal. I just very strongly disagree with your position and the theology behind it.

Just to be clear and to save everyone having to go back and look for it- I never called you stupid or silly or absurd etc- I am referencing a theological position not you personally.

Your statements like this are what I take strong objection to:

"If weaker Christians in faith feel they need masks in church there is no condemnation."

Don't you see how that sounds? You are essentially saying that people who decide to wear a mask in public places, based on their best judgment and hopefully with prayerful consideration, are weak Christians. Don't you see how condescending THAT sounds? You may think I sound condescending and I admit sometimes I can sound that way, but your statement takes the cake in that regard.

Might I submit that very STRONG Spirit-filled Christians may decide to wear a mask in public? And that the Lord may be 100% okay with their decision?

You seem to be suggesting this is not possible. You suggest that strong Christians would never wear a mask because to do so is offensive to God. I would say that is very presumptuous indeed.

How about we just let people do what they think is best, and not condemn them for it?

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by narrowpath, on: 20

Dear Sister Margie, I think you need to calm down a bit.

Masks protect the other person, not so much you.

In our church we had people who did not want to come because we mandated masks and others would not come if we did not mandate masks!

I gladly wear a mask if it helps to set my brother at ease and he will attend our fellowship for that reason.

Did you not read what brother Alan shared? Did he get the bug because of lack of faith? He risked his life caring for his father! Should he have stood in the pulpit preaching despite of the virus he caught and endanger his fellowship?

Joseph and Mary were caught up in the Roman census and had to give birth at a very inconvenient time. Of course, one

may argue, the census was totally pointless and King David was judged by God for this very reason. Imagine Mary had refused to be registered by stating that she carried the Son of God in her womb, who was the King of Kings and not subject to the pagan Roman authority?

Why not bear a little inconvenience for the sake of my brothers health. Why make liberty and freedom an idol?

Re: SisterMargie - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2020/7/25 12:02

The scriptures I posted were for all. I just saw a lot of "I's" in one of your posts, as it appeared to me there was a lot of puffing up going on. Remember, we're ALL equal in God's eye's, and our works will never get us into Heaven, by Grace we get there. I'm personally grateful for all you're doing for the kingdom of God. Our testimony's should be more about what we were doing, before we ask Christ into our lives, not what we are doing now. The lost sheep need to know that once we were lost, if not more lost than they are. Yes, it's ok to bring up "some" of the things we are doing for Christ, to maybe help others with a direction, but ultimately, we should allow God to lead us. As for as me commenting on your question, it is right for a Brother to speak this way, I'm not going to answer that, why? because as a sinner, I don't cast stones, Prayer works better for me, and the person/persons I pray for.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2020/7/25 14:05

Quote:

-----Maybe God is using this virus to shake up those who have been playing games, not really born again.

Saints,

We all have strong opinions in these times where great pressures are being put on all peoples worldwide. What is certain is many of these pressures are man-made and to control people. Any saint who is discerning can see through alot of the facade.

I am not denying there is not a real virus called Covid-19. But what I am advocating is that we consider these pressures are not from God and are causing Churches and Christians to literally "close" their mouths and not testify for the Lord or share the gospel.

I feel it is a "muzzle" on the body of Christ.

Think of Daniel where the ungodly men passed laws for the entire land but their only goal in the end was to capture Daniel. I see the same thing at play here where churches are being shut and controlled greatly. Untold amount of believers are discouraged, falling into sins, and not testifying of the Lord.

We need to be bold in our day. What can a virus do but kill our body, but God can kill the soul in hell., So therefore we fear God and obey Him.

Re: brother Greg - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/7/25 16:53

Yes Amen ðŸ™•ðŸ™•»

What's the point of making this a legal issue amongst ourselves, the body of Christ ?

This can be, and should be by believers, taken as a matter of faith not law. As a matter of conscience, if the spirit of the living God is leading you and this is your testimony in these matters, then who are we to judge another mans servant ? We too are servants in the same house with both a common foundation and master. (For me) we could be better utilized by the Lord if we simply keep our lamps lit, at the ready and be available to share what's been shared with us, the Kingdom, serving to also provide margin by standing in the gap between the living God and a (spiritually) dead people, going

ng both before Him on their behalf and to them on His behalf. For this we need mercy to be given to us to that we can give it to others. (In my experience) the more mercy we give to others, the more we receive from the Lord. I've caught myself doling out mercy based on what (I believe) is due... but I should be giving it based on how much is available and not on how much I think they deserve. This is a very dangerous and subtle sin that has escaped me for years but now I've seen it in myself and the light of truth, His presence, convicts me and repentance follows. Now with new (heart) eyes to see, my desire is to go all in on every opportunity the He allows, the alabaster jar not just poured out, but broken at His feet and wasting it all on Him. Not presuming I have anything of worth to offer anyone save that which my savior gave me.

“Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give thee”

That is the Kingdom of God in action, and I believe it's just as available to us as the man Peter quoted above. In some ways even more so and it's because people like Cephas became persons like Peter. When he (Cephas) became a son he became Peter :)

This same transformation awaits all who consent to it, the Spirit and the Bride say “Come” !

Romans 8:19

For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God.

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show who his children are.

Shouldn't we stir up the gift within us, trim our wicks and be ready in and out of season to answer His call to joyfully share with others that which has so bountifully been given to us?

Not struggling over the hurdles of “taste not, touch not” regulatory agents, rather we are to fellowship in the spirit, not being carnal but spiritual with our ONLY committed position being to do the will of our Father, and in this way we can “walk in the light as He is in the light” and have fellowship through the blood “”

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/25 17:24

I can amen that Fletcher.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/7/25 18:01

Hi Greg and SI members

The problem brothers and sisters is that we are in a bind or a catch 22

Yes all the virus can do is kill our body which is to a certain degree ours but unfortunately it can also kill other people as well through us .So the virus has put other peoples lives in our hands .These lives are not ours to give or take and its only responsible to protect them by wearing a mask .

I dont think this is an issue of fear or boldness insomuch that if you wear a mask you are in fear and lack boldness or if you dont wear a mask you are fearing the Lord more than man and are being Bold.

Quite clearly the enemy has the Church in a lose bind and its up to the Lord and Saviour of the Church to break that bind .A challenge no doubt he has prepared for and will succeed at.

"We need to be bold in our day. What can a virus do but kill our body, but God can kill the soul in hell., So therefore we fear God and obey Him."

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/7/25 18:31

Hi All

Now for a few moments of Encouragement about 2020 For the USA

If you have time have a listen and I am sure you will be blessed especially if you are an American.

Sermon regarding 400TH Anniversary of the founding of America

2020 ~~â€¢~~ The Year When We Will See Wonders | Carter Conlon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jA8_VNLUrHE

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/7/25 21:09

Good words Staff.

Re: - posted by MichaelLiao (), on: 2020/7/31 21:41

Dear Friends on SI,

This is your brother Michael Liao. I pray during this pandemic season that you are all safe, well-fed, and in the state of peace. My prayer for all of us is that we remain in Christ Jesus, remaining present with Presence, and knowing Him as our all in all.

I write this to you all because I have noticed a lot of discussions lately on this forum with regards to masks and politics. But, I want to address us all as believers in the Lord because I am quite grieved over how we are communicating with each other on this forum. As a user on SermonIndex since 2011, I have been blessed by the sermons on this forum and some of the brethren here who post encouraging words for the saints. However, I am saddened to see that we are seemingly becoming more divisive over issues, some of which could be trivial, but some could also be serious and endanger the lives of people. We're debating about whether it's biblical or sinful to wear a mask during this pandemic, whether wearing a mask is muzzling our mouths to preach the Gospel, or it is a government conspiracy to shut churches down.

Brethren, if I may share a personal testimony of what the Lord has been doing in my life recently, I hope it may shed some light in how God can be glorified in the midst of this chaos we are living in. I'm 29 years old and I live with my family. My parents are in their late 60s. The reason I choose to wear a mask and gloves outside is that it is for the sake of my family. I don't want them to get sick. It is my way to honour my father and mother as Scripture says. I work as an Uber Driver and Uber has a policy where if I do not take a selfie of myself wearing a mask, I cannot drive. Also, there is a "No Mask, No Ride" policy for our customers. It keeps the drivers safe and it keeps the customers safe. I have to spray down my car with Lysol at the end of each shift. Why do I take these precautions? It's so that I can be careful and look out for the person next to me. It is to make sure that my neighbour, my parents, the people around me don't catch this virus. To look out for the OTHER. To look outside of ourselves, see the needs of others, and to meet them where they are.

Recently, by the Lord's grace I was able to share the Gospel with one of my customers on an Uber ride. He had said he's a Christian, but as I discerned more it seemed that he knew about Christianity, but not have Christ in him. I explained how the Gospel leads to the Resurrected Life of Christ to dwell in us and to live out His Life in us. The young man told me he had never heard of the Gospel that way before and seemed intrigued. I said it's the transformation of the Holy Spirit within a man's heart, not getting your bootstraps together to make yourself a Christian. I pray that the Lord saves this young man. But, the point is that we both wore a mask when this conversation happened. God is much bigger than our circumstances and we shouldn't be fretting so much about what the government is doing or not doing. We argue so often about how we will lose our freedoms and we seemingly put ourselves into a frenzy that is not really a frenzy. A mask does not muzzle my mouth to share the Gospel. It's just a piece of cloth meant to protect myself and others, but my voice is bigger than a mask. What saddens me is when we make blanket statements such as "Wearing a mask is being disobedient to God. It's unbiblical." Am I, your brother in the Lord, being disobedient for wearing a mask, even though the Lord had given me an opportunity to share His Son with a young man? It's awfully condemning to write someone off for....being careful. For looking out for my friends and family. For looking out for my customers. But, because I am wearing a mask, I'm automatically on the devil's team? Salvation is by grace, not by what you believe politically. What I am saying is that when we make these blanket statements, we could potentially hurt someone in the Body, and we'll have to answer to the Lord

d for every word that is spoken.

During the last few months, I have been able to fellowship with some brethren online. Though it seems less than ideal as gathering in a physical location seems better, we still benefit spiritually from each other. I have a brother in the Lord based out in California where every time we see each other on-screen, we're overjoyed to see each other and we simply pour Christ into each other. We both come out of those meetings being marked by the Presence of Christ. We're encouraged to seek Him more after our meetings. To behold His glory! That's what matters at the end of the day. To see Him who is our Head and Authority over all things and the Church.

My friends, if I may ask a pressing question, how much are we touching Christ daily? How much are we beholding Him? I believe the way we can check if we know Christ is by the way we communicate with each other in this Body. When we blast each other for our differences, we are not exercising the Words of Christ when He said, "They will know you are My disciples by the love you have for one another." (John 13:35) The greater the view of Christ, the greater our unity. The Centrality and the Supremacy of Christ does not ignore our differences, but rather transcends them. Meaning that though we may disagree, I see you not as a label to destroy, but a brother or sister worthy of love and respect because you and I are beholding the same Head. Perhaps what we are missing is the Centrality of Christ in our individual lives, which inevitably leads to "Christ in the Center" missing out of our corporate lives. It's easy to hide behind a computer screen and throw an insult at someone for disagreeing with you, which is why I don't post too often on this forum. I carefully pick my battles because I don't want my ego to get in the way and not benefit the saints. A heart that beholds Christ expresses Christ because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

I believe that we as a Church should return to the call of the Centrality of Christ. His Pre-eminence and Grace are what matters at this point. The Vision of Him who reigns is what cuts the earthly divide in our egos and brings us into a unity that no man can manufacture apart from His Holy Spirit. Many of us here have internet, we have good food to eat, we have fresh water to drink, we live in the Western World, freedoms to enjoy, and much to be thankful for. Perhaps the reason why we get into these petty arguments and are restless is that we're so focused on what we don't have. We're not thankful for the things we have now. We're constantly ruminating about a future that has yet to exist. We're not present with our King and therefore we are not present with each other. We're often focused on outside problems and our rights that we miss the riches that have already been deposited into us through the Holy Spirit - The Riches of Christ. We're constantly projecting enemies that are not really there and are living in constant fear because of a perceived lack within ourselves. We argue because we don't realize we already can be content with the Living Christ in us. We've forgotten our sense of belonging. The Vision of Christ gives us that sense of love, acceptance, and belonging that satisfies our hearts and there would be no need to argue. There's no need to prove yourself. In fact, it leads to the greater embrace of His Bride as a whole. The Spirit takes us away from our ego selves and enables us to see the Imago Dei within each and every one of us collectively. Again, this is not to say that there will be no disagreements. At the end of the day, we are human and will be in error in some ways. But, through the seeing of Christ, we can engage each other in the expression of His Spirit - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. As Paul says, "Against these things, there is no law...." Ask yourself, how does the Lord Jesus feel within you when you say a hurtful word to a brother or sister on this forum? You can mask it by saying, "Oh, but I'm just telling the truth as it is...", but what would the Lord say? Many times I could sense the Lord's grief on this forum because we divide over these petty things. He's grieved over us being man-spirited.

We are living in precarious times, brethren. My prayer and hope for all of us is that we seek a greater unity among the saints through the Vision of Christ. Maybe it means for some of us to just simply take time away from this forum and to sit still. To be with Christ. To see Him in all His excellencies! "O God, you are my God! Earnestly, I seek You!" (Psalm 63:1). It is a call to return to our initial foundation: our sense of belonging which is our identity in Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:27, Galatians 2:20). You are all loved and accepted beyond measure. When we touch the Lord through our spirit, when we commune with Him, when we learn to enjoy Christ, there's a beauty in Him that surpasses all the petty things we fret over in life. Seeing Him makes us realize that there are things that matter to us in the now that won't matter in light of eternity. Our late brothers, Theodore Austin-Sparks and Watchman Nee both saw the revelation of Christ so deeply that it caused them to lay down their lives in service to the Gospel. With Watchman Nee, it cost him his life in a Chinese Prison. With T. Austin-Sparks, he preached the Revelation of Christ with such depth that he wrote *The School of Christ and the Centrality and Supremacy of Christ*. To this day, Sparks' ministry gives out his books for free to those who order them on his website. Why? Because Sparks saw that Christ was worth it! He believed that as he freely received the revelation of Christ, he would freely give his teachings away to people. Christ was worth more to Sparks than the money he could've made with his books. And here we are arguing about masks and whether it is biblical...God forbid that as we do this we are trifling with human lives in the process. We just saw what happened with Herman Cain and how he died of COVID-19 because he pridefully did not care for masks and social distancing. Yes, the Lord calls us to trust Him. But, trusting Him doe

s not mean being presumptuous about things. The Lord has given us a brain to reason.

Though I believe it is safe for me to wear a mask, I believe this is a matter of conscience. This is between all of us and the Lord. We all have to answer to the Lord in the end for our actions - whether we have benefitted someone or hurt someone (knowingly or unknowingly). We all have to live with the consequences of our decisions. What bothers me more is how we treat each other as brothers and sisters on this forum regardless of where we stand. My hope is that as we engage these issues, there will be a speech that is seasoned with salt and an understanding that dispels our divisions. I want Christ to be seen. I want Him to be proclaimed and enjoyed by us corporately. May God turn us back towards Him because as we behold Him who is Light, we become light ourselves. As we behold His Love, we become His expression of love. And as we behold His Life, we become the expression of the Tree of Life Himself whose river runs into the spiritual deserts of our dying world. Love, Light, and Life - These are the 3 Ls that our Father calls us to in His Son. As we behold the glory of the Lord with an unveiled face, we are transformed into the same image as Christ from one degree of glory to another (2 Corinthians 3:16-18). Do we see Him? Do we know Him? And do we love Him? And if we love Him, do we love His people as the natural outflow?

I will end off by sharing these precious quotes:

"The longer we live, and the more we know, the more we shall be made aware of how little we do know, and how vast this Christ is!" -T. Austin-Sparks

"Christ is the Head and He is also the Body." -Watchman Nee

"I believe in church and I love the fellowship of the assembly. There is much we can learn when we come together on Sundays and sit among the saints. But there are certain things that you and I will never learn in the presence of other people. Unquestionably, part of our failure today is religious activity that is not preceded by aloneness, by inactivity. I mean getting alone with God and waiting in silence and quietness until we are charged with God's Spirit." -A.W. Tozer

May Christ our Lord be glorified in us all! I love you all, brethren.

Your Servant in Jesus' Name,

- Michael Barnabas Hoy-Kuen Liao

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2020/8/1 2:07

Hi narrowpath,

Quote:

-----Masks protect the other person, not so much you.

This is a very good point.

A person (like makrothumia's dad) can take precautions and even wear a mask each and every time they walk out the door. Yet, they can still contract COVID-19 almost as easily as if they weren't wearing a mask.

A mask isn't really going to protect you. If someone coughs or sneezes in your direction and an invisible particle lands on sensitive areas of your face (or in your eyes), you're still very much at risk for contracting the coronavirus.

Rather, as most people are aware, the mask is meant to protect those around you. People who aren't infected often are unaware. A significant number of people (especially people under the age of 50) are asymptomatic -- meaning that they show no known signs of associated symptoms (e.g., fever, sweats, fatigue, cough, etc.).

Thus, by wearing the mask, you're protecting people around you from being infected. Some of those people might be at greater risk of death. So, by wearing the mask, you prevent yourself from inadvertently infecting or even killing them.

I am NOT saying that people should or should not wear a mask in public or among other believers. However, I do think that it is wise to be cautious and even take precautions.

We don't drink from a well that we know has bad water in it. We certainly wouldn't give that water to our spouse, children, family members or neighbors (especially if we know that water might potentially be deadly).

Doctors and researchers are still trying to figure out COVID-19. We know that the greatest risk is with people who are elderly or those who have preexisting health issues (particularly with their lungs or issues with clotting).

In our Silicon Valley county (Santa Clara County), we have roughly 2 Million residents. Our county has implemented extensive testing. As of the time of my writing, we have had a total of 9,913 cases. Of those, 191 have died. Most of those individuals who died were over the age of 70.

In fact, 45.6% of deaths were in people over the age of 80 -- and most of them had a comorbidity (a preexisting condition in addition to COVID-19). In fact, at least 82.1% (and possibly as high as 87%) of COVID-19 deaths in our county are the result of a comorbidity.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/dashboard-demographics-of-cases-and-deaths.aspx>

So, I would certainly suggest that those individuals take precautions. We should be wise about these things.

Most importantly, we should all PRAY. We should pray for our families, the family of God and, of course, ourselves. We should pray for unbelievers too.

With this in mind, I would only urge each of you to pray about your decisions when it comes to COVID-19. Obviously, we should pray for the health of those around us. However, we should pray about what we should do when it comes to a mask.

On a personal level, I am conscientious when it comes to those at greatest risk. I live in the Silicon Valley. I still go to certain grocery stores. While I am healthy and my age doesn't place me at risk of death from COVID-19 (even if I contract it), I still don't want to spread it inadvertently to someone at risk.

A few months ago, my wife and I had hoped to travel to visit her family. Yet, we opted against it out of care for her parents. They are both strong believers. However, they thanked us for it.

At the same time, I think that we should be so detached from this world that we are ready to depart it at any time. This is true whether our final breath will be due to COVID-19, some other disease, an accident or simply old age.

We will all die at sometime during our lives. Some will die as early as the womb. Others will die when they are exceptionally old. Everyone else dies somewhere in between. With this in mind, life is short. As ambassadors of Christ, we have a responsibility to be a good steward who takes responsibility for the time and talents that God has given us.

I think that it is important to fellowship with believers -- and all the more as we see that day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25). The early church met daily in one another's homes. That church was not quite so "institutional" or even formulaic and ecclesiastical as churches became later.

We can still meet together with other believers. When we do, I don't think that the mask is a sign of unbelief.

More importantly, I think that the greater problem in the church is that invisible "mask" that believers sometimes wear. That "mask" is the one that we sometimes wear to hide who we are on the inside (both during fellowship with believers or when we are out and about in this world).

Family of God, we shouldn't allow something as superficial as a physical mask divide us. Perhaps this is one of those issues of which Romans 14 speaks:

Quote:
-----Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one w

ho does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Romans 14:1-9 NASB

With heartfelt love, you are all in my prayers.

Re: - posted by deogloria, on: 2020/8/1 2:13

I read most of the comments in this thread.

mak:I'm sorry to hear you lost your father !

MichaelLiao: thank you for your comments and concern. I understand what you are saying. I quietly gave this topic the title "christianity today..."
Might explain a bit more in other threads what I mean.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/8/1 10:57

Michael-

Thank you for your thoughtful post.

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by danstone (), on: 20

I seen a few quotes that seem timely in response to these posts.

"Was talking to a friend last night and he said, ' Where Im from (rural Kentucky) wearing a mask and social distancing is considered liberal'
Americans seem to be uniquely gifted at politicizing pretty much everything. May the church not follow the world in this way." - Taken from Shai Linne's twitter account.

Shai Linne also posted something that Martin Luther said during the bubonic plague.

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order to not become contaminated, and thus perchance inflict and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But, I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy, and does not tempt God"
- Martin Luther

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/8/1 18:11

Hi Danstone,
MLK Sums up our predicament perfectly and the best we can do at the moment,staff

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/8/1 18:45

Agreed.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2020/8/4 17:25

<https://www.cleveland19.com/2020/08/04/spread-like-wildfire-churchgoer-spread-covid-least-other-people-cases-family-gatherings-continue-rise/?outputType=amp>

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by Lysa (), on: 2020/8/1 18:45

I know I don't have to wear a mask but I'm not going to flaunt my freedom in the face of others.

Where is the love of God toward our neighbors in all this craziness? People are fearful in these days, if my wearing a mask alleviates someone else's fears, why should I not love them enough to wear it?

My personal opinion is that the heart of men and women are being revealed, from Christians to non-Christians.

If meat offends your brother or sister, why would you want to eat it in front of him?

That's my two cents in all this mess!! God bless us all as we realize what exactly true love is in this hour.

Lisa

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by SHMILY, on: 2020/8/1 18:45

This thread reminds me of a video I saw early this year. I don't know where I first saw it but Asia Harvest posted it too.

I share it not to take a position on masks in part because I am only required to wear one in a few places and I like most people around here mostly don't otherwise. Rather I post it to remember what our mission is.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG-EG1oe1Dk&feature=emb_title

REJOICE! =)

Mary

Re: My take on Mask and this article - posted by Sree (), on: 2020/8/6 10:57

Is wearing Mask in Church against our faith?

The most important thing about worship is not the place of worship but whether we worship in spirit and truth (John 4). I do not believe wearing a mask will prevent someone from worshipping in spirit and truth. Let us focus on worshipping in spirit and truth which our Lord seeks.

Is wearing Mask against my faith?

Wearing a mask is prevention before cure. Prevention is better. Taking a preventive step is not against our faith. Most of us take vaccines to prevent deadly diseases. I believe in taking those. I believe God can heal me through those miraculous drugs. Hence I and my children have taken it. I do not believe it is against my Christian faith.

Jesus himself took preventive actions. He did not walk in blind faith.

John 7-1:- After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.

Is this not a preventive action taken by Jesus? It is commonsense not to go to a place where people are trying to kill you. Jesus lived by commonsense whenever it was not against God's will. But when God wanted him to go Judea, he ignored his commonsense and went by faith.

It is commonsense to wear a mask to prevent a disease that people believe is still deadly. I will come to the topic of why I still believe covid19 is deadly.

Am I a weak Christian if I wear a mask?

I do not believe I am a weak Christian if I wear a mask. I wear a mask if asked to wear, but I still believe my life is completely under God's control. Wearing a mask does not prevent my faith or reduce my faith. Jesus believed that his life was completely in God's hand, he believed that if he jumps from Temple top God will hold him as it is written in the scripture, yet he chooses not to jump and test God. I too choose not to tempt God by not wearing Mask. How is it even weak faith?

What about a Church that emphasis on wearing masks?

I do not believe anything is wrong with a Church emphasizing it. Think about this scenario. If there are people in the Church who are (so-called) weak in faith, and they are not comfortable attending the Church because others are not wearing masks, then why should they be prevented from attending Church? Why should my freedom to sit unmasked, affect the other who is not comfortable meeting with me? Is not this (so-called) weak feathered person affected by my freedom to no wear mask? I would rather ask the Church to wear masks thereby preventing this (so-called) weak faith believers from dropping off from Church! I believe this is reasonable just like how Apostle Paul asks us to not eat meat if it disturbs others.

What is true freedom?

Freedom in Christ is freedom from sin. Freedom from the law of sin and death. Not freedom from a mask or anything. I know people who do not take vaccines by faith. I know people who do not visit doctors in faith. I know people who do not take any medication in faith. I respect them but I see God's hand in everything. I see God's hand in the medications that I get. Without God's approval, nothing can happen to me. I believe in it.

Regarding Covid19-

People here post that the Covid19 death rate probability is very low. I agree it has reduced its severity. But it was not always the same. A few months back it was very severe. Even young people with no medical history were admitted with multiple organ failure due to COVID. I got the first-hand reports from believers working in the emergency unit. I know for sure they are telling the truth. I too know people who barely survived and that too being young and healthy.

But the reason I believe the severity of Covid19 has reduced is, due to weather change. In summer and the countries with high temperatures and tropical weather, the virus had very less effect. But it still spreads though. If we do not take any precaution in controlling now, then in winter it will show its true color. This winter will be very deadly for the USA.

I wish I could be wrong but my take is based on the evidence I see. So let us take it seriously and do everything to prevent its spread but not in fear because God is still in control.

Re: - posted by followthelamb, on: 2020/8/6 13:02

Lysa and Sreeram, thank you for what you shared! 🙏

It has been imposed in some places that there can be no congregational singing to God allowed when meeting to worship God though. This would personally cross the line of my conscience as in "we must obey God rather than man." Does anyone else feel the same?

Whether someone wants to wear a mask or does not want to, may the Lord give all of us grace and tenderheartedness toward each other. 🙏

Romans 14:3 in the context of Covid could read:

"Let not him who wears a mask despise him who does not wear a mask, and let not him who does not wear a mask judge him who wears a mask; for God has received him" 🙏

Edited.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2020/8/6 13:19

Quote:

It has been imposed in some places that there can be no congregational singing to God allowed when meeting to worship God though. This would personally cross the line of my conscience as in "we must obey God rather than man." Does anyone else feel the same?

Thank you for your post sister. In India, there is a ban on religious gatherings from singing. Based on 25 years of being a Hindu, I know that only Christians sing in their gathering. For Hindus it is occasional. The law I believe was made just to restrict Christians. But as law-abiding Christians, we have to follow it.

In USA, if there is a scientific reason behind not to sing then I believe it can be followed. In most American Churches I attended, people do not sing but just hear the choir. You know very well, we sing in our churches!

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2020/8/6 20:28

Hi Followthelamb,
I dont think you can directly swap the scripture because eating or not eating as in Romans 14:3 does not lead to the spread of an infectious disease so its not a matter of grace

Romans 14:3
"Let not him who wears a mask despise him who does not wear a mask, and let not him who does not wear a mask judge him who wears a mask; for God has received him"

yours staff

Re: Some scriptural Reasons Christians should not wear masks in church services or st - posted by staff, on: 2020/8/6

Hi Greg/all ,
"This is a clear word that I believe much of it we can all easily agree with in these times. It is written from a godly sister with good testimony. I encourage brethren to read this post."

Going back to Gregs original post , I dont think this is a word that we can easily agree on because as of yet there is not an easy way out of this predicament that we are all in, grappling with this catch 22 situation. On the one hand we dont want to pass on a deadly infection and on the other hand we want to assemble and praise God freely while also understanding the enemy of the Church is behind this situation pulling the strings of politicians like puppets...

Perhaps one of the things we can do which is one of the last things I want to do in the flesh because of their unrighteousness is to pray for our politicians that they see clearly yours staff

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/8/6 23:21

These masks have about as much to do with this virus as these protests do with George Floyd -

It says on the box,.. "Does NOT prevent spread or protect against Covid"

It's like eating plastic fruit hoping to lose weight ... just silly .
Both N95 masks ONLY protect the wearer not others and only if worn properly which from what I've seen is as rare as Bigfoot.

Meanwhile there are demonic forces on the march openly with little to no real resistance and one of the reasons why is those who claim the name of Christ rather spend their time debating nonsense ad infinitum

May God have mercy 🙏»

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2020/8/7 7:48

None of us would ignore the concerns of families whose children were exposed to unnecessary risk because another family knowingly brought a child with fever to an assembly simply because neither parent wanted to miss the gathering.

Who would not consider this "inconsiderate" and "unloving?" Who among us would argue that all the other families with children simply need to have faith and allow the other families with sick children to be able to worship?

As a person who witnessed the death of my father from the virus, had my own severe case COVID 19, and have still not tested "negative" yet, I understand people's concerns who are not comfortable being near me. I am convinced that I am no longer contagious, but they are not and I respect their concerns and limit myself for their sake.

As Sree has said, we consider it irresponsible to not take precautions when we know there is a risk that others could be affected by a condition we are aware of. Most church nurseries have a policy that parents are not to bring any child with a fever, and no one questions this.

When churches take similar precautions to protect their members, especially churches with elderly congregations, why is this not seen as prudent and loving.

This scripture comes to mind for this thread - "If anyone thinks he perceives something, he does not yet know as he ought." We are cautioned not to think beyond the measure of faith that God has granted us. Those who want to tell others what faith should look like for them should consider carefully whether they have gone beyond the faith God has given them.

Mak

Re: there is no pandemic - posted by JFW (), on: 2020/8/7 8:46

or health crisis.... in the Kingdom of God

6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;
9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: »