



Dear Currey Creek Family,

Saturday, March 14, 2020

"Grace to you, and peace..." is how the Apostle Paul began several of his letters to the gathered church. What wise words for our time as well! We surely need the grace of God during these troubled times and we surely need His peace, a peace that passes all understanding. To say that information concerning the Coronavirus or Covid 19 is dominating the media is an understatement to say the least. Some of this information coming to us is valuable and helpful and some is not. To make matters worse, the information is fluid and constantly changing. Compounding the situation, people have very strong opinions on all sides. The question that I am asking myself is, "How can we as a church honor the Lord in our response?" In consultation with the Executive Team and our Elders I would like to take the opportunity to offer a response that speaks to the head and the heart, not in fear but in faith.

First, I want to speak to our intellects. The consensus from the medical field is that in order to limit the spread of a virus an important strategy is to 'flatten the curve'. This catchy phrase basically means that measures can be taken to slow the infection rate. Some of these measures are as simple as diligence in basic hygiene practices. Other measures include limiting exposure to other people who may be infected but are not yet aware. This is the advice that those in positions of authority are giving to institutions, including churches, that have over 500 in attendance. According to I Peter 2, Christians are called to honor those in authority for the Lord's sake. While we have received no direct mandate from any governmental source, the advice given by those in authority is to limit large group gatherings.

Secondly, I would like to speak to the heart. The Coronavirus is more dangerous to the most vulnerable among us, namely our children and our senior adults. To not consider this reality would be a mistake with a potentially heart-breaking outcome. We need to make protecting the most vulnerable among us, in real and tangible ways, a priority in our current environment.

Therefore, we have made the decision to NOT gather *together* for the weeks of March 15th and 22nd. All church related activities such as Creek Kids, Student Ministries, and Men's and Women's Bible studies are suspended until further notice. So, what are we going to do moving forward? A short video will come out this evening on our website and social media describing our plan. Tomorrow morning and next Sunday we will provide a [simulcast worship service at 10:30 a.m.](#) that you can watch online as a family. Also, President Trump has declared tomorrow, March 15th, to be a National Day of Prayer for our nation. Currey Creek will be open tomorrow from noon until 6 p.m. for you to come and pray should you so desire. There will be prayer prompts on the screen to help guide and focus our prayers. Should you come, please be respectful of other's space.

We are living in extraordinary times. Never before in my life has every major professional and college sporting event been delayed or cancelled. Schools have shut down for an additional week. Colleges and Universities are moving to virtual classrooms for the time being. This is giving us as families an incredible opportunity to slow down, refocus our priorities, pray for others, and demonstrate calm amid the chaos. It is a great opportunity for those who know the Prince of Peace to live out our faith. May the Lord grant you grace and peace.

In Christ,
John