

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



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Fear & Faith

out ‘scientific facts’ to support their side of the argument.

As Christians this should make us pause and think why this is happening. A knee-jerk response would be to stop listening to the debate and declare a pox on both their houses, but that would be an over-reaction. Furthermore, any investigation of the science would show the facts being used are mostly correct. What causes the different conclusions of the groups is they use different narrative or worldview lens to understand the science. Though each group uses science to reach their particular conclusion, they fail to see how their individual lens changes how they perceive the data.

So how should Christians respond? We need to go back to God’s word and interpret these events through the lens scripture provides. We live in the a world dominated by death,

It has been interesting during this time how little commentary has been written about our nation’s response to the Corona-Virus. One of the little things that seems to have gone unnoticed is how everyone believes their response is backed by science. Yet while every person says we need to ‘believe the science’, people on opposite sides of the debate about what we should do concerning the economy represented by the ‘open-up’ vs ‘lockdown’ argument, trots

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Loving



The last week has seen the beginning of the easing of some of the restrictions we have been living under for the last two months. How have you reacted to these restrictions? Are you someone who has been craving physically seeing people and can't wait to have people over for dinner or get out with a group of friends? Or are you the person who is still feeling quite nervous or worried about the restrictions being lifted and wants to just continue with social distancing and not seeing people yet. Or maybe you are somewhere in between?

As our government begins to lift restrictions and allow for different activities it is helpful to keep some biblical principles in mind for how we can love our brothers and sisters. Check out Ephesians 4:2-3:

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:2-3)

We should be guided by humility, gentleness, patience, love and unity. Let's unpack each of these principles.

Humility

As we chat to people about how

each other as restrictions ease

by **Nicky Gangemi**

they want to act as restrictions ease, we need to have humility. Whilst we might think that we have the “right way” of dealing with this crisis, or we have the “right view” on meeting up or staying away, others will have different ideas to us. We need humility to accept that they might think differently to us, and that our way might not be right for everyone.

Gentleness

We should have gentleness as we speak to each other – kindness and tenderness, like a mother comforting a child. It can be easy to become snappy or sharp with people when we speak to them and disagree about how to act, but we want to live at peace with our brothers and sisters, despite differences of opinion.

Patience

The COVID crisis has given us a lot of time to practice patience. Patience in line at the supermarket for toilet paper, patience with our kids who have been doing remote learning, patience with a spouse who is around a lot more than we are used to, or patience with friends who have forgotten to stay in contact – especially when we have felt lonely. Let us continue to show patience to each other as the restrictions change.

Love

Loving each other means respecting each other's desires for how they

act with the changing of restrictions. Love when it is used in the Bible is often an action word. Think: “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son.” (John 3:16) So, as we love others in this ever-changing environment, let our love be full of action. Action like respect for physical boundaries and practical help if it is needed.

Unity

And finally, unity. We have unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ because we are all part of God's family and because we all have God's Holy Spirit. So, let us work hard at maintaining unity (1 Cor. 12:25). If you are someone who doesn't yet feel comfortable with physically seeing people, work at showing your unity through other means, a letter, phone call or video call to encourage and love your fellow Christians. If you are someone who is happy to meet up, use your time wisely, speak words of encouragement and read the Bible or pray together. How wonderful it is to be able to do these things together in person again.

Whilst the COVID crisis has allowed for us to practice these principles of relating to one another in a heightened environment they are good for life in any situation. How will you practice humility, gentleness, patience, love and unity this week and in the weeks to come?

and this will continue to be the case until Jesus' return. But as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we should not walk in fear. During a storm where the disciples boat was being swamped, they awoke Jesus who was sleeping in the bow and asked, 'Don't you care that we are drowning?' (Mark 4) Jesus stood up, rebuked the wind and waves and they fell silent. Then he asked in response, 'Why are you so afraid, do you still not have any faith?' It is a question Jesus still asks his people today.

We need to look at what is happening around us and care for the vulnerable in the community. But we must not do so without thinking about every person in the society. One of the problems the

current policy fails to do in its one size fits all approach, is not allow people to weigh risks for themselves. Fear causes people to over-react. Christians need to be measured and balanced, listening to all the concerns of those in the community and takes appropriate action. Christian faith cares for the vulnerable, whilst not being goaded into the same fearful over-reaction which appears to have overtaken many of our politicians and media class. Faith is not meant to be reckless - but capitulating to fear betrays our faith in Jesus.

In Christ, Adam.



John Mason Ask... Has Our Sense of Humour been dulled by the Coronavirus?

Let me share with you some of the sayings for the book titled "Splashes of Joy in the Cesspools of Life" by Barabara Johnson

"Our five sense are incomplete without the sixth sense - a sense of humour.

Laugh and the world laughs with you - cry and you still get wet.

Humour is the dust that lets the sawdust out of a stuffed shirt.

Just when a woman think her work is done, she becomes a Grandmother.

I swam 10 laps, I ran 3 miles, I biked 7 miles...it's been a good year.

Find-A-Word

A W S S H T Q V E J W O L L A
 O I S E H O L Y N H T I A F N
 K H E I V S Z S V B S A N B S
 V G N R E S T R I C T I O N S
 U O E A J A X U R K S Y I E I
 L V L D D M C E O N P T T F P
 N E T N Y L O L N I I I C M E
 E R N U Y M V E M H R N A M O
 R N E O O I I N E T I U O V P
 A A G B M W D X N Q T T I D L
 B N E X Q S I F T B I I Q J E
 L C S I T U A T I O N F E A R
 E E H O C O R I N T H I A N S
 O H D I S C I P L E S K I I V
 P Z B I K E P H E S I A N S J

Action	Governance
Allow	Holy
Bike	Humility
Boundaries	Laugh
Cesspools	Loving
Community	People
Contact	Physical
Corinthians	Reaction
COVID	Rebuke
Crisis	Restrictions
Disciples	Senses
Emotion	Situation
Environment	Spirit
Ephesians	Swim
Faith	Think
Fear	Unity
Gentleness	Vulnerable