

Another Casualty of Covid?

Covid and the accompanying restrictions forced us to do a lot of things differently. Some of us learned to do work and/or school from home. We learned to Zoom and to wear masks. We learned we could get almost anything we needed delivered. Above all, we learned “social distancing” – to shun personal contact with our friends and neighbors, to isolate ourselves. We also had to learn to do church differently – to watch it on YouTube or, my personal favorite, our drive-in parking lot services. And while discovering creative new ways to do things can be a plus, I’m afraid the Covid era has left us with a negative legacy. I’m afraid some of us are still isolating.

This subject occurred to me when I heard how many hits we have on our YouTube services every week. I was excited to think that people who perhaps never set foot in a church were hearing the gospel message! And I knew that some members of our congregation, who were either sick or out of the area, used this means to keep connected, which is also great. But something tells me there’s a third group – those who became used to staying home on Sunday mornings during Covid and have never come back. For these, sadly, church may now be little more than a spectator sport. That’s not what God intended.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42, 46-47, emphasis added)*

Countless studies have shown that human beings need social interaction nearly as much as food, shelter, and air to breathe. Our health is effected, for better if we have it and for worse if we don’t. For the Christian, this is doubly true, since spiritual vitality depends not only on time spent with God but with other believers. Isolation can be deadly, and God never meant for any of us to go it alone. *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).*

I know this is cold/flu season, but except when you’re actually sick, get back into your churches. Bring your children, friends, and neighbors with you. Rediscover and renew the joy of that life-giving fellowship, lest your spiritual verve become another tragic casualty of Covid. We need each other; it’s that simple.

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