

Fear

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." - Matthew 10:28

Fear is an emotion that all people share to some extent. Some are more fearful than others, even to the point of restricting their lives in certain areas. Death is perhaps the most common thing that mankind fears. That is easy to see in this time of the Covid 19 virus that is taking so many lives. It is a deadly threat, and I certainly don't make light of it. At the same time I ask this question, "What if we feared God as much as we do this virus?"

Some people do and are keeping the faith and doing what they can to be safe as they serve the Lord. Others are very fearful of catching the virus and take every precaution that they can, but take little thought of their spiritual health. God doesn't want us to live in fear and if we truly trust him then we won't live in fear of this virus, or any other disease. We want to be careful and take what steps we can to avoid this virus, but not let it rule our lives. Consider some of the steps that people take to avoid the disease

Social distancing is something new that we have come to accept. What if we used that in our spiritual lives and kept distancing ourselves from temptation and sin? We don't seem to be as serious so many times in this area of life, do we? If people did, there wouldn't be so much hurt and trouble in our lives, families, and even in our churches. Because sin doesn't hurt us physically at the moment, but gives a false pleasure, folks are not as careful about it. If a person felt a sharp pain when he lied, cheated, or done some other sin, maybe he would be more careful of his thoughts and actions.

With this Covid 19 virus we are told to wash our hands often and to be careful what we touch. Many people wear gloves to try to protect themselves. This is helpful for the physical, but what if we apply it to our spiritual lives as well? Don't we need to go to the Lord and have him wash away our sins, and don't try to tell me that we don't have them. We do and need to confess them to the Lord. It may only be some thought about someone that is not right. Just because no one knows it, even the one that you thought about, God knows all about it. Pray, read the bible, and let the Lord be like the gloves to keep us from the unclean things.

I have seen people in Korea and Japan, wear masks in public many years ago, but rarely here in America. Now it is something that we are doing to help protect ourselves from

the virus. The mask is to protect us as well as to protect others from us. While the word of God doesn't tell us to wear a mask, it does tell us to bridle our tongues. Words can be so very hurtful and if a person doesn't try to control his mouth, he can do damage that can last a lifetime. Once a person lets hurtful words loose they are like a dam breaking forth, and come spilling out in a flood. As someone said long ago, "Once you have hurled hurtful words at someone, you can't take them back." Oh, you might want to take them back and be sorry that you said them, but that is all you can do. It is much better to not let them out in the first place. In the heat of the moment a person can say things that will bother him for the rest of his life. People may forgive, but do they ever forget?

Another guideline for the Covid 19 virus protection is to clean things often. Once again that is a good idea for our spiritual lives as well. Do we take stock of our home and even in our minds and hearts of the things that we allow to be in there? Is there things in either of these places that are unclean and hurtful to us or our families? There are so many things that a person may think are alright, but do they hurt us spiritually? Some folks are so set in their ways that they do what they want without regard to anything, or anybody else. Ask the Lord to cleanse us from sin and protect us from the temptations that come upon us.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

IN HIS OLD AGE, THE PEOPLE HAVE SHOCKED THE PROPHET SAMUEL BY ASKING HIM TO APPOINT A KING TO RULE OVER THEM....

MAKE US A KING TO JUDGE US LIKE ALL THE NATIONS!

I WILL SPEAK UNTO THE LORD!

... SAMUEL GOES TO PRAY TO THE LORD.

HEarken UNTO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE...

... THEY HAVE NOT REJECTED THEE, BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED ME, THAT I SHOULD NOT REIGN OVER THEM!

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