

An update from the Northland elders regarding concerns facing Northland as well as many other Churches. - 8/9/2020

There is little doubt that Satan is active and being very aggressive.

Regarding the ongoing pandemic:

- This is an ongoing concern and worry for many people
- This is creating isolation and depression issues for many people
- Some people may have higher exposure risk due to their job situation
- Some people may have underlying health concerns
- Some people may be caring for family members with health concerns
- Some people may be having financial issues

The pandemic makes it very difficult to fellowship, work together and support one another as the Church was intended. It prevents us from meeting face to face (Zoom meetings are nice, but they cannot replace sitting across the room or table)

Unfortunately, there are not many good answers to address the challenges the pandemic creates. Following up, engaging, encouraging and meeting peoples' needs is a huge challenge in these conditions.

The opportunity to meet for worship is a huge encouragement to many. We all want to do everything possible to see this continue safely. Leadership is of the opinion that we would prefer to error on the side of safety first. We don't like it that we need to have so many "rules" but we feel members need to know what to expect so they can judge if they can safely attend.

Although Caleb has taken the responsibility to communicate these policies, they are ultimately what leadership has agreed to. We continue to review our policies weekly. We greatly appreciate people's input and support as we try to continue to adjust but ultimately leaders were appointed to set the "rules".

If you study the Spanish flu pandemic of 1919 you will find that they struggled with the very same issues we are struggling with today with Covid19. They too were upset by the rules being enforced.

We are truly grateful for your continued support and understanding in these matters.

Regarding the political landscape we find ourselves in:

- The US experiencing increasing social unrest
- This is an election year

Both can quickly stir up people's emotions. People have specific opinions and are very passionate about them. People's views will differ based on their age and past experiences.

In Ecclesiastes 1:9 Solomon said: What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

There is always going to be a right and left and everything in between. The issues are very complex and often there are opposing views. There are issues that are important based upon their impact to the Church. People can be very passionate about their positions. There are going to be many different views even between the people of God.

Leadership is always willing to listen to the concerns of members. We understand that everyone is coming from a unique position and their input needs to be respected. Ultimately however, leadership's responsibility is to focus on the up/down relationship with God. While the left/right issues do matter because they affect our current lives, the most important relationship is our upward looking relationship with God which effects eternity. God alone is our hope, our strength and our shield. This is one of the reasons we have chosen to study the fruits of the Spirit at this time.

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?

If we do not extend grace to each other, then satan will surely divide us. Leadership is asking that we all extend grace to one another as brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to come and talk with one of the elders. Your input is important.

Luke 6:37-38 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

I Corinthians 8:9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.