

From the Corner – *Let's Be Better Humans*

As a pastor I share life with all sorts of people. People who are extremely kind and people who have a hard time understanding why they need to love others, and how to love others as they love themselves. It's easy to get caught up in your own life so much that thinking about others goes way behind yourself. But we all know that when we love others, care about others, are kind to others, mindful of others, share with others, comfort others, help others, and even consider loving our enemies, that life can be so much better - for all of us.

When I was growing up as a kid, I heard all kinds of messages that confused me. I learned that loving others as we love ourselves is a major theme of Jesus and other spiritual teachers, and I also was told that we needed to take care of me and mine before others. Well, which is it? Both are important, but both cannot stand at the same time. The only time the world gets better is when the world is mindful of others, and that begins with each one of us.

The idea of world peace has been so dismissed that we even laugh when a Miss America contestant says that she wants world peace. We can't say we want peace and then laugh about it as if it is an impossible construct. The same is true when we laugh at the idea of loving our neighbor and praying for enemies. World peace is a possible achievement only when we are all in and committed (not just forward a Facebook post about world peace) to live everyday as peacemakers with one another.

The Delta variant of COVID19 is now among us. Places are again shutting down and overflowing hospitals. Cases are rising and there are more deaths. Why? Because there seems to be a disconnect between politics and medical science; caring for one another and freedom. We are refusing to get vaccinated when medical science shows that when the population reaches a high percentage of vaccinations, we have a better chance of eradicating COVID and its variants - saving lives. We are playing games with wearing masks. Refusing to put them on because we think it is a slippery slope of losing our freedoms. Putting on a mask is no different than buckling your seat belt. It saves our lives and our neighbors lives. Let us not forget that this is not the only pandemic we have sought to wipe out. Smallpox and Polio to name two. We can do this! We have different perspectives, but when it comes to a pandemic we can't fight against one another, we must fight *for* one another.

Several weeks ago, someone asked me, "Don't you have faith?" My response was, I have faith in God who has created us to help one another. I have faith in God who has given us medical science. I have faith that we can be used by God to save lives and be better humans by eradicating this virus.



"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."

-1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (The Message)

Journey well!

Pastor Keith Pastor@StJohnChurch.net