

10 DO'S AND DON'TS FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS

from Pastor Larry Walkemeyer

1. Do deepen your stand on the unshakeable rock of Jesus and God's Word.

His presence and promises are most pronounced during times of panic, uncertainty, or fear. Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2. Do respond with increased and directed prayer.

Pray especially for those afflicted and families who have lost loved ones; for the scientific and medical communities, those who are front-line care providers; for the world's political leaders to implement strategies that will flatten the COVID-19 and slow the rate of transmission; for the church to serve with courage and compassion.

Pray especially for this crisis to be an opportunity for great evangelism and even revival!

3. Do listen to the fears of others and speak peace and promise.

Don't start a conversation by telling people "not to fear." Instead, listen to their fears, empathize, then point them to the promises of the Word and to the person of Jesus who is their source of courage. Try and put yourself in the shoes of others.

4. Don't give racism, prejudice or polarization any room and call it out in others.

The fallenness of the world due to sin and the presence of a spiritual enemy who hates all humans are ultimately behind the spread of this disease...not any people group or politicians! Refuse any blame casting, instead work for justice and to protect those who are marginalized or maligned.

5. Do take all precautions.

Faith is not a reason for failing to follow all wise defenses to keep yourself and others safe. Trust Jesus and wash your hands (for 20 seconds, many times a day...and watch those doorknobs!) [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) is an ongoing source for the most effective precautions.

6. Don't let self-centeredness skew your thinking or actions.

Just because you may be in the low risk category, doesn't mean you shouldn't have deep empathy for others. The biblical principle is "the strong serve the weak".

7. Do think creatively of how you can serve others during this time.

The Spirit will give his followers creative ways to help others during this time. Ask him. Don't wait for your church to tell you what to do. As you take precautions also remember the church throughout history has taken risks in Jesus name to serve others. We are those without the fear of death so we lay down our lives for our friends when led by the Spirit to do so.

8. Do gather in "micro-churches"...small gatherings of the church in your home.

Remind others that the church is not the building and not a worship service. The church is followers of Jesus connecting with one another around God's Word under the overall authority of pastors. We can do that in homes, cafes, coffee shops or in small groups at the church facility. (You don't need a pastor present)

9. Do increase your connections with one another.

Meeting in person for coffee or having people to your apartment or house, is more vital than ever. Phones, Facetime, Zoom, Texts, Emails, Social Media are connection channels that are completely safe and should be maxed out during this time. Pray WITH one another.

10. Do inhabit and exhibit the peace of Christ, looking for gospel opportunities.

We have a different source of strength, courage, peace, joy and hope than the rest of the world.

Times like these can exhibit those differences and become an open door for sharing Christ.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

When the world is afraid, we are to be strong and courageous because Jesus is our courage and strength. When the world is hopeless, we are to be a hope-filled people because our hope is in the One who defeated sin and death.

10+. Give each other this Scriptural Blessing:

“May the Lord bless you and protect you; may the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace.” (Num. 6:24-25)