

# Covid Conversations: An Apology and An Explanation

*...following a conversation about masks, scientists, and differing opinions on the coronavirus,  
with one of the deacons in my church fellowship one Sunday morning after the church service.*

13 September 2020

Dear [church deacon]

I am very sorry for the heatedness of my discussion with you last Sunday after the service. Please forgive me for failing to obey the Biblical injunction to entreat you as an elder as I should have done.

## **Serving One Another with the Gifts God has Given Us**

In your talk in the service on Sunday you spoke about serving one another with the gifts God has given us. You rightly said that each of us is gifted by the Lord in different areas and there isn't one of us whom God hasn't gifted in some way that we may each bless one another.

I support you absolutely in that. As I wrote in [our church] Forum in May:

“From the Christian perspective, the Lord told believers to discern the times (Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thess. 5:1-11), even if not every believer has a witness from the Lord to study any particular aspect of the coming times in any depth. And that's fine, because the Body of Christ is made up of many different parts – one is an eye, another a hand, another a foot – so that while some are called to one kind of work, others are called to another kind of work, and we all contribute the particular work the Lord has given each of us to the building up of the Body as a whole (1 Corinthians 12:14-21).”

As you said, those gifts are all different. Hopefully, the Lord makes it clear to each believer quite soon after their salvation what their particular gift is - I don't think there can be many Christians who continue struggling along for very long in a ministry in which the Lord has obviously not called them...

I am very aware that my gifting does not lie in, for example, evangelism or intercession or hospitality – I recognise that I am very weak in those, and many other, ministries. God's use for me in the Body of Christ lies in the areas of study, reading, and writing, and, God willing, He will subsequently bless and strengthen my brothers and sisters through those.

Most of the things I write I hope will be encouraging and edifying; I hope this has been the case with my contributions to [our] monthly newsletter thus far (and, God willing, will continue to be so) and with some of my postings on [the church website's] 'noticeboard' and 'prayer and share' webpages.

Sometimes, though, my findings on some topics may not be well received by believers. I understand that. But that doesn't mean I must shrink from doing that work or fail to follow through myself with the practical implications of the results of my studies. I can only ask other believers to pray about, consider, and weigh up against Scripture the information I have brought to them.

So, regarding this coronavirus I can best serve the Church by recognising the lack of peace in my spirit concerning the Government's reactions to it and handlings of it, obeying the Lord to apply the gift He has given me, and looking into the issue as He directs me.

This is what I am doing and thus it has been necessary to post my less-than-favourable findings about the virus on [our church] website during the past six months. But it should be recognised that amongst the 'hard' observations I have had to make, I have contributed many comforting and encouraging posts regarding the virus too - please see the document enclosed in this bundle titled *My Comments and Encouragements re: Covid-19 on [our church] Website (Forum and Noticeboard)*, as well as other (hopefully encouraging) items completely unrelated to this virus.

It is also very likely that the Lord's direction during this time has differed, and continues to differ, for each of us according to our particular needs; hence, I have made neither made blanket assertions nor insisted on a one-size-fits-all concerning Covid-19 – unlike the Government. Please see the short item I wrote in April titled [\*Our Place of Safety\*](#) in this regard, as well as my comment about the lockdown on [the] forum on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> May:

“...the problem with the blanket and compulsory lockdown is that a lot more harm is being caused to a lot more people (and the toll will be even greater in the coming months and years) than would be if just the vulnerable were advised it might be safer for them to consider staying at home for a while until the danger to them is passed”

## **My Love for the Fellowship and my Support for the Deacons**

I love every one of my brothers and sisters in [our fellowship], and I have promised to support the deacons – and this I shall do. But I would be neither loving the fellowship nor supporting the deacons if I suspended my critical faculties concerning this coronavirus and failed to warn of the dangers inherent in the UK Government's continual ratcheting up of their, frankly, ever more Fascistic-Communist diktats - not just for the nation, which is bad enough, but more so for Christians in the days to come.

## **Taking the Virus Seriously**

You were worried that I'm not taking the virus seriously. Please, please be assured that I take it *very* seriously which is the reason for my studies of it. One of the scripture references I have especially tried to heed for many years is *“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is a folly and shame unto him”* (Proverbs 18:13), hence I have spent a prodigious amount of time during the last six months studying the virus and the government's reaction to it in great detail, precisely so that I *can*

Speak with at least a little knowledge of the issue. (Please see my webpages included in this bundle providing information on Covid-19.)

## **Wearing Face-Masks**

Our main area of discussion on Sunday was about the wearing of face masks... I truly do understand your bafflement as to why I don't wear a face-mask and your resultant surmising that I am simply being contrary and difficult by not doing so. You also informed me that other members of the fellowship have broached you similarly, and I understand their fearfulness too if they believe that by my not wearing a face-mask I may be risking infecting them with the virus.

However, I can only address anyone's concerns if I am aware that they *have* concerns! Obviously I don't know who has spoken with you about this, so please would it be possible for you to advise them to come to me in accord with Matthew 18:15: *"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained a brother"*?

It may be that they have information of which I am ignorant regarding the wearing of face-masks, and if that is the case then it goes without saying that I need to be made aware of the information they have. Conversely, it may be that the work I have done on the issue of face-masks will give them the confidence to "fret not" if others aren't wearing one, even if they themselves continue to feel happier doing so.

Either way, the complainants are my brothers and sisters in Christ, I love them, and it is necessary that we discuss the issue so that their minds can be set at rest.

(Included in this package is a one-side item titled, *Face Mask Safety: Know the Facts Before You Wear One*, and my short article titled, [Why I Don't Wear A Face-Mask](#). Please see also my two webpages regarding facemasks, titled, [Wearing Face Masks: Articles and Videos](#) and [Wearing Face Masks: Quotes and Comments](#).)

## **Scientists and Sources of Information**

You also expressed your opinion that in my study of Covid-19 I have referenced few sources and have taken note of just a few scientists. Also, that the scientists I have noted merely confirmed my (already existing) prejudices about the virus.

Obviously I don't know on what basis you formed your opinion, but would that I had such a level of scientific expertise to be able to have held a pre-coronavirus bias! Sadly, no, my scientific knowledge is very basic, and so I have necessarily turned to various scientific sources to help educate me regarding the virus, and it is from the expertise of a goodly number of different scientists, and other commentators, in their specific areas that I have been able to form my current opinion on the issue of Covid-19 and its aspects – such as, for example, the benefits or otherwise of wearing face masks.

When I first took note of the sudden escalation of this coronavirus in March, I was at my mother's, and the only sources I had there for almost two weeks were the BBC's and Channel 4's rolling 24-hour news coverage. Once I got home and could begin to read more widely, I soon began to realise that what the Mainstream Media and the Government and their advisors were saying didn't add up...

By that point all my alarm bells were clanging, and I realised I would have to begin to look at Covid-19 in a little more detail. Moving on from the advisors favoured by the Government and the BBC, I listened to what other experts had to say, and I have now read and watched a large number of scientific/medical, political, and general discussions by many commentators (both professional and not), other than the few selected by the Government and the BBC. Hundreds of these articles and videos are now uploaded onto my webpages and hundreds more are waiting to go on.

But, in truth, nothing I have been doing isn't what countless thousands of other folks across the country have likewise been undertaking since the lockdown was imposed in March... As always and with everything when politicians are involved, it is important that we do our own research:

“Many people think they are not qualified to research or question the politics or science behind government decisions ... But Covid-19 should really change that ... the government has not discharged the onus of proof over Covid-19 ... To those who've researched and studied evidence and applied this to global events, it's apparent that mainstream thinking at all levels doesn't resemble the reality. Nowadays, a mainstream position on the most important events can be ripped to shreds” [*One World Global Think Tank*].

“[I]t is the right and duty of every citizen to look and see what the scientists [and politicians and the media] have said and to analyse it for themselves and to draw common sense conclusions. We are all perfectly capable of doing that and there's no particular reason why the scientific nature of the problem should mean we have to resign our liberty into the hands of scientists. We all have critical faculties and it's rather important, in a moment of national panic, that we should maintain them” [Lord Jonathan Sumption, *BBC Radio 4*].

(Please see my webpages on many of the issues relating to the virus. See also the word.doc titled *Source References I have Used for My Study of Covid-19*. Please see also my webpage titled, [Scientists and Doctors](#).)

## **Opinions and Biases**

We all have opinions and biases. You have formed your opinion and have your bias on the subject of this coronavirus due to what you have read and seen about it - as have I. You trust the sources from which you have obtained your information about the virus – as do I. And you believe your opinion is valid – as do I.

And the reason we both defended our own opinions so robustly is because we both believe our views are *more* valid than the other's. I recognise though that I should have accorded you more respect as an elder in my method of my defence, and for my failing in that I am very sorry.

But are we both absolutely sure that our sources are more to be trusted than the other's? On what grounds have both you and I decided that the sources we have chosen to heed are more reliable than those the other has chosen to heed?

Please be assured that I don't just wake up in the morning and think, *Oh I think I'll have this opinion on [fill in subject here]*. Referring back to Proverbs 18:13, my opinions on any subject – be they political, doctrinal, or any other – are only ever formed after a great deal of research and study – weeks, months, maybe even years of work.

On this particular issue we all realise that the debate is extremely important because it's not just a theoretical conundrum but is one that (a) is seriously affecting the physical and mental health, and the economic, and spiritual wellbeing of this nation, and (b) if the Church *in toto* in the UK doesn't get a grip of, will have far-reaching and devastating implications for how – even *if* – Christian fellowships will be able to meet and worship in the coming years.

If your research on this virus has led you to trust the Government and its advisors, then absolutely you must stand by that. It would be hypocritical not to. Likewise, I must stand by my findings.

The point I'm trying to make regarding one's opinions and biases is not that we have them – we all do – but how they are formed; on what grounds we make them. (Please see the document in this bundle titled, *Opinions, Views, Perspectives, Biases, Objectivity, Subjectivity*.)

## **Denominational Head Offices and Local Church Gatherings**

I understand that the various denominations in the UK have issued standard recommendations to their churches, and I realise that it could be helpful to check the suggestions proffered, but it may be that what God wants one fellowship to do regarding this virus may not be what He wants another fellowship to do... So could it not be that, rather than a one-size-fits-all decree handed down from head office by denominational leaders who neither have a 'hotline' to God denied to the elders and deacons of individual churches nor are familiar with the details of each fellowship's situation, the Lord will direct the elders and deacons of *each* fellowship regarding their church's particular requirements?

That way, each fellowship can ensure it is benefiting from the provisions God has instituted in the Bible for the containment of contagious diseases, as well as being able to adhere to God's commands for the ways in which He wants His Church to worship Him.

For example, washing one's hands is a sensible precaution – and one biblically and medically proven to help prevent contagion. But the forbidding of communion and corporate hymn singing, forcibly blasting freezing cold air through church buildings during the winter months such that the elderly and/or frail risk contracting chills or worse (whilst simultaneously and illogically depriving congregants of that same fresh air through mask-wearing), pointless one-way systems, and the severe restriction of fellowship with one another within the church setting (spiritually and socially), along with all the rest of the arbitrary, fear-induced, impossibly restrictive rulings required of Christian fellowships in the UK,

denies God's Word for His ways of worship and thus is surely *not* His way of doing things, and will merely serve to close churches again irrespective of any further Government mandated lockdowns...

[Our fellowship] has been very faithful to God in opening up the church for Sunday services sooner than many other churches have done, and God has blessed us for that obedience to His Scriptural command for His people to gather together to worship Him. Please, please let us not at this late stage in the trajectory of this virus now take steps backward by adhering to guidance which may well give folks the illusion of 'feeling safe' but which in reality is (a) actually doing absolutely nothing to allay the spread of *any* coronavirus; be that this coronavirus or any of the other coronaviruses that underlie many of our usual seasonal colds and flus, and (b) is disregarding God's stated instructions for His required methods of worship. (Please see my webpage titled, [Churches: Fearing God or Man?](#))

### **The Relationship Between the Church and State and Between the Family and State**

Finally, I would like to briefly note that:

“God has commanded three institutions within human society: the family, the state, and the church. Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected. When any one of the three institutions exceeds the bounds of its jurisdiction it is the duty of the other institutions to curtail that overreach” [John MacArthur].

“[I]f the state presumes to forbid what God commands, or commands what God forbids, the state has moved beyond its sphere of authority, and those who obey God must at that point resist such arrogant presumption ... State omnipotence is the opposite of Biblical teaching” [Dr. Joe Boot].

(Please see my webpage: [Churches: Fearing God or Man?](#) for more on this subject of the relationship between the Church and the State.)

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Thankyou for reading through my letter, and for your willingness to peruse the various documents and webpages I have included in this package.

Again, I ask your forgiveness for my failing to remain calm and respectful during the course of our discussion last Sunday morning.

With love in the LORD,  
Liz

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