

# How Should a Christian Respond to the Coronavirus?

In times of widespread sickness, it is easy to become disheartened and fearful. The sickness seems mysterious and you may fear for yourself and your loved ones. You also may feel anxious about the reactions of other people. Some people are putting their worry to work buying extra supplies. Some people are doing all they can to wash/disinfect/avoid etc. How should Christians respond? The simple answer: faith and love.

The first response of a Christian is faith. Faith confesses sin and clings to Christ for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit works and keeps faith in the Christian by the Word of God, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Faith clings to these and in clinging to these, clings to Jesus, who gives himself to us in these gifts. If we have Jesus, we have eternal life and are children of the heavenly Father.

1. Stay in the Word of God by individual reading, family devotion and gathering at church when possible to hear the Word proclaimed by the Pastor standing in the place of Jesus. By this Word we confess our sins and receive forgiveness, life and salvation.
2. Use your baptism by praying daily in God's name and knowing that He hears you as His child. Start with the Lord's prayer and add your own cares, concerns and worries. Don't forget, you are appearing before the very throne of the heavenly Father! He will give grace and mercy.
3. Receive the Lord's Supper at church when possible. There, Jesus gives His true, physical body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life. Jesus body and blood will not harm you, but will only help you in body and soul.

What does faith have to do with Coronavirus? Well, everything! If the creator of the universe has given you His Son Jesus Christ, then He has given you all you need. Nothing can separate you or those you love from God and His eternal blessings, not Coronavirus or death itself. Christ has defeated sin and its result, death. You have that very Christ living in you by the power of the Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord!

The second response of a Christian, that flows from faith, is love. The Holy Spirit works love in our hearts as we receive God himself, who is love. This love looks like the 10 Commandments. Love trusts God, prays to God and listens to God. Then love looks to all the people around us and does everything for their good.

1. Trust, pray and listen to God.
2. Bring your loved ones the gifts of the Lord: read God's Word to them, teach them of Christ, remind them of their baptism, bring them to church when possible to receive God's Word and the body and blood of Jesus.
3. Care for yourself, by good sleep and proper care of your body.
4. Care for your loved ones who are well, by good sleep and proper care.
5. Care for your loved ones who are sick by bringing them to the doctor and caring for them at home.

What does love have to do with Coronavirus? Well, everything! Since you have all things in Christ and you want to do good to everyone, then use the 10 commandments and think of how to serve your neighbor in the best way during this time when many are fearful and anxious. The list above is just a few examples of what that love will look like.

Below are some comforting Psalms and other verses that remind us that our heavenly Father is in full control and working all things for the good of those who love Him.

Psalms: 4, 27, 34, 118, 46, 56, 77, 91, 94, 139

Matthew: 6, 10, 11, 24

John 14

Romans 8

2 Corinthians 4

1 Peter 1, 4, 5