

How Should Christians Respond to the Coronavirus?

by Reagan Marsh, 3/19/20 reformationdalton.com

Christians walk today in a situation without precedent in our lifetimes. Yet we do not walk in the dark. God's Word provides much counsel, perspective, and wisdom as to how believers ought to respond to the Coronavirus.

1. In faith.

Our God is a great King – indeed, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Scripture says he is in the heavens (Ps 115:3), and his is no impersonal sovereignty – he knows my name and orders my steps. He demonstrated his love, such that his only-begotten Son died for sinners – died for me! His Spirit dwells within me, so I have great assurance that he'll never forsake or forget me. I am to believe.

2. In hope.

Because of who God is, he is not only near to his people – he hears us when we call to him. He hears my prayers and my groans. He knows my needs. He's sympathetic toward my fears, and deals with me by tender mercies and steadfast love. He cannot change, and thus cannot deal with me in any other way. Hope does not disappoint us.

3. In love.

In his kind providence, God is giving us more time than usual to attend to communion with himself through prayer and his word. This is a wonderful opportunity to cultivate greater love to him. Don't waste your quarantine. In his wise providence, this is also a time when many around us are fearful. We have a fantastic opportunity to show and speak of the love of God in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Love to God and man is to define all that we do.

4. In truth.

Fear is rooted in a false vision of who God is. We of all people love the truth as it is in Jesus – love what his Word says about him. We love to see more of his character and ways in the Scriptures. Why do you think God has given you the grace to grow in what you know of him at this season? It's for your living comfort and faithful witness of his redeeming mercy in the Christ who is the truth.

5. In peace.

Panic, fear, unrest, and terror mark many today. But Christians are a people who are no longer dead. Jesus took that for us. We're no longer under God's wrath and displeasure. Jesus took those for us. We're no longer God's enemies. Jesus brought us into his family, and we now have a Father who loves us better than we could hope. We have peace that transcends all understanding in the Saviour who's better than we could ever imagine.

6. In wisdom.

We will follow sound counsel because the Lord calls us to honor the leaders he sets over us insofar as they don't dishonor him. We'll also do it because he commands us to love our neighbors. So we'll wash our hands and stay home for a while. We won't do foolish things that break the 6th Commandment (it forbids "the taking

away of...the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto"). Wisdom isn't fear. It's faith, applied with careful consideration of the whole counsel of God.

7. In generosity.

We have no clue how long this situation will last, or how bad it may get – but we have no uncertainty what Scripture calls us to do. “As we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith” (Gal 6:10). So we will extend ourselves to others in his name, as God has done for us in Jesus, seeking opportunities to speak of his grace, and trusting that our God will supply all our needs according to his riches in glory in Christ as we seek to honor him before men.

Faith, hope, love, truth, peace, wisdom, generosity. These are all matters which, for the Christian, ultimately orbit around the Cross. Our Saviour knows our sorrows and struggles. He was the man of sorrows, after all. He promises that he is near to the brokenhearted, he relieves those who are cast down, and he calls the anxious one to find peace in him. He knows where we are, and is yet a merciful and faithful high priest for us. His Cross pledges his love to us. So let us draw near, and find rest for our souls in his faithful, mighty care.

Reagan Marsh is husband to Kara, daddy to RG & AG, and founding Pastor-Teacher to [Reformation Baptist Church](#). An SBTS graduate, biblical counselor, and Th.D student in Puritan Studies, he has served in gospel ministry since 1998.