

Dear Christ's Church of the Canyon,

One of the things I've noticed since the Corona Virus has come on the scene is a tendency for us to be suspicious of those who get too close. The typical "personal space" that as American's we usually adhere to, 18+ inches between people is now measured in feet instead of inches. When someone gets too close to us we start to exhibit physiological signs like sweating, dry mouth, heart palpitations and we resort to giving the "close talker or close stander" the "stink eye." Or, we whip out a bottle of hand sanitizer (*if you can find it*) and we squirt it all over our hands, arms, and upper torso to teach that person a lesson or two in proper "virus" etiquette. Fear has gripped us as a country and even as followers of Christ!

In 2 Timothy 1:7, the Apostle Paul states, **"For God has not given us a spirit of** *timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*"

Timothy lived during a time of great persecution and fear, persecution not from "bugs" but from the iron fist of the Roman Empire and, more specifically, the ever present Roman soldier. As followers of Christ, we'll be called upon to move out of our protective bubble and help address the needs of our neighbors living next door, across the street, or across town. To give the other shopper the last bottle of sanitizer (*Pastor Wayne, you can't possibly be asking us to do this??*), the last role of toilet paper (*wait, what?*), or bottle of water. Isn't that what Jesus would do? Our "spirit" is one of power, love, and discipline not fear, intimidation, and hate. Or, worse yet...**apathy**.

<u>Updates</u>

No regular Sunday services this coming Sunday (We're working on taping our services so you can view them anytime. I feel so technologically savvy!!) The youth group is meeting every Wednesday evening through live streaming (good job, Matt and Lorra) No Men's Breakfast in April No 50+ group in April

"Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6