

CFBC family —

The God who calls us into union with Himself has also called us into sweet fellowship with one another. Our fellowship with one another as the people of God should resemble the fellowship that we enjoy with our Savior. We live in unprecedented times, to be sure. In recent months, we have lived through and experienced circumstances that have never happened before in the world to such a large, global, world-halting extent. And now, by the grace of God, we seek to navigate the waters so as to live in a way that is pleasing to God in all things.

We now are able to resume meeting together in our normal location starting this Wednesday, May 20th and then on Sunday, May 24th. Lots of opinions and ideas have swirled through this entire world-event. From all angles and from all sides of the spectrum, there has been no shortage of theories, concerns, fears, protests and confusions. But now, as we seek to come together, it is absolutely vital that we as God's people *conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called*. Indeed, we must “stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil 1:27). We must diligently trust in our God who gives “perseverance and encouragement so that we can be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus so that with one accord we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 15:5-6).

Your shepherd-elders (Randy, Lance and Geoff) have prayerfully and diligently communicated so as to think through the best way that we can honor our authorities (Rom 13:1) and prioritize the corporate fellowship of the saints (Acts 2:46). Starting this Wednesday, May 20th, we plan to re-open the regular corporate gatherings of CFBC.

We as your shepherd-elders have watched you, CFBC family, serve one another in tangible, sacrificial, and proactive ways. God has filled our hearts with exceeding joy and immense pleasure in His grace as we see you, church family, love and serve one another. So, this letter is an encouragement to “excel still more” (1 Thess 4:1).

In order to do this effectively and to maintain Christ-radiating unity, we must uphold and diligently preserve the following key points:

1. Christian love.

Together, let's selflessly live out Christian, others-oriented, self-denying love. We can diligently strive to love one another just as Christ has loved us. He laid aside His own prerogative, His own agenda, His own position, and sacrificially loved us, His elect people. Let's strive to emulate Christ's love for us as we diligently love one another. This means we will shun all gossip and slander. Together, let's cultivate the heart-attitude of not grumbling or murmuring but being thankful and loving toward each other.

2. Humble deference.

Together, we must be humble toward one another. Undoubtedly people have their own ideas and opinions on the current circumstances of our world. That's fine. But remember: the Lord sits in the heavens and His sovereignty rules over all! Let's not pridefully look down on others if their opinion differs from ours. Let's not speak evil of or even harbor arrogant thoughts toward others if their conscience allows them or prohibits them from doing things that we may feel comfortable with. Let's show tolerance to one another in genuine love, with true humility, promoting genuine unity.

3. Mutual edification.

Together, let's actively preserve the unity that the Spirit has bonded within and among us. Let's not cause a brother to stumble. Let everything that you say to and about one another be in the spirit of mutual upbuilding. Let every word that proceeds out of your mouth be good for building up and not for tearing down. Let's affirm one another in the Lord and refuse to speak evil of one another. Let each person be convinced in his own mind on the current-event matters, but let us all be tightly unified in the active and aggressive pursuit of building up the body of Christ of CFBC!

4. Single-minded pursuit.

Together, let's aim toward a single goal — the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ! Let's seek to bring great honor to our God as we think, as we speak, as we relate to one another, and as we pray for one another in the church family. Let's glorify God with one voice and let us embrace the single-minded pursuit of Christ's glory and God's fame. We do this as we put aside our own preferences and radically pursue Christ through the regular fellowship, the preaching of the Word, the corporate praying, the mutual edification, and the partaking of the ordinances. Let's pursue Christ together! Make it your ambition to be pleasing to God in all things!

You have already received the CFBC document with some protocols and explanations as we seek to follow the advice from health officials while protecting the CFBC flock and yet still providing occasion to worship the Lord *together* as a church family. Please read through it and humbly submit to the spirit and precautions of this document. We're seeking to honor God and serve the CFBC flock the best way that we can. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to serve and happy to communicate as best as we're able.

With heartfelt love for our Savior and with genuine affection for you, the flock of God!

Your shepherd-elders,
Randy Kirkland
Lance Quinn
Geoff Kirkland