



From the Elders and Board of Lighthouse Church

Over the past few months, we have witnessed some unprecedented actions taken by our national and local authorities in responding to the Coronavirus threat and many of these measures have had a direct impact on the corporate gathering of faith communities. During this time, and especially over the past couple of weeks, we have heard from many of you within the church regarding this topic. Some have simply asked for information as to when we think we might resume in-person services and what that might look like, while others have expressed stronger feelings about whether or not they feel our religious freedoms have been violated and whether we, as a local church body, should take a stand in defiance of such measures. To be clear; if, at any point, the authorities asked us to cease sharing the gospel or stop Sunday services altogether, that would be a cause for concern and we would be compelled to resist such measures (Acts 4:18-20).

While the Church has an obligation to submit to God's sovereignty as our highest moral authority, we also have a biblical obligation to respect and submit to our local authorities as agents appointed by God whenever we can do so without violating a direct commandment from God (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17). Regarding the social distancing measures, what we've been asked to do has been for the expressed purpose of limiting opportunities for the virus to spread through human contact. We recognize that many of you have differing opinions as to whether all of these measures were necessary, or even just in their application. When it comes to such personal feelings, many of our board members share in those feelings with you. However, our responsibility to submit to the authorities placed over us is not contingent upon whether we like or agree with their policies, and as a board, we are unified in that belief.

While these policies have resulted in a different, even less comfortable, form of worship than what we're accustomed to, we have continued to worship, share the gospel, love our neighbors, preach the word, encourage one another, and honor God. Because of that, we have chosen to honor those policies with our actions out of reverence for the One who appointed those authorities over us.

As our church leadership prayerfully considers the next steps to be taken towards reconvening in person, we ask you to please pray for us that God would bless us with wisdom and discernment from the Holy Spirit. We are just as eager and excited to join together again with you in fellowship and corporate worship, but we also want to ensure we do so in a way that loves, respects, and protects everyone in our local congregation.

For those within the church who may be reacting differently than you, whichever direction that is, we ask you to be willing to give them an abundance of grace. Some people are at a higher risk than others and still don't feel comfortable leaving their house, while others are ready to get back to work/family/travel and don't feel compelled to continue isolating themselves. Neither approach is sinful, as long as we are truly following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which will always keep us within the boundaries of scripture. Scripture warns us not to condemn ourselves in what we approve, but also that our personal conviction in the Spirit is between us and God (Romans 14:22). To be obedient to what the Spirit is convicting us to do or not do is faith, but to impose those convictions on others is legalism. Where God's word gives us freedom, we should show grace to others.



Earlier this week, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) approved a variance request submitted by Douglas County that will enable us to resume in-person worship even sooner and in greater numbers than previously anticipated. We are in the process of rolling out a plan to resume in-person services starting Sunday, 5/31. In the meantime, we want you all to know that we will continue to offer opportunities to engage with our worship services and various ministries in an online format as well.

We know this time has been difficult for everyone, but during this time we have seen the people of Lighthouse rise to the occasion to continue to love, continue to grow, and continue to pursue community, and for that we are abundantly grateful. We have continued to pursue our mission to see lives transformed through Jesus and are prayerfully and excitedly anticipating what God will do in the coming season.