

6 Scriptural Principles for gathering the Church during COVID-19

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As we consider the factors involved with Sunday worship gatherings, the LifePointe Church Elders have established these 6 Scriptural principles that will guide our decisions about WHEN and HOW we will gather:

- 1) We value the gathering of believers, by the best means available.** *Hebrews 10:24-25.*
Our earnest desire is to gather in-person, and we will work toward this end whenever possible. We also recognize that gathering together in the building may not be the best option for some in our fellowship. So, as we re-enter the building for Sunday worship, we plan to continue providing livestream options for those gathering with us online.
- 2) We are focused on fulfilling our mission.** *Matthew 28:16-20.*
The way we respond to this crisis impacts our gospel-witness. Therefore, we will be diligent to make decisions that enable a winsome, God-honoring presence in our community that positions us to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We will not allow our response to this crisis to become a barrier to making disciples.
- 3) We will pursue God's wisdom to guide our decisions.** *James 1:5-6; Ephesians 5:15-21.*
All decisions will be prayerfully made, leveraging as best we can the wisdom of God promised to us in Scripture.
- 4) This is not a religious liberty issue for us; therefore, we will follow the regulations and guidelines issued by state, county and city officials.** *Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4.*
Currently the Church in our community is NOT being singled-out with restrictions and regulations based upon our profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or more harsh than other gatherings in our community here in Colorado. In fact, we are blessed with an ongoing cooperative working relationship with the governor's office and with county and local officials. Therefore, we do not regard current restrictions as a religious liberty issue; thus, Scripture calls us to honor the authorities that God has established for our good. Please, pray for these officials as they carry-out their responsibilities.
- 5) We will not operate in fear, but in love.** *Deuteronomy 31:8; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:18-21.*
All precautions determined by church leadership to be necessary for physically gathering together again will be established in love for each other and for our community, as opposed to fear of a virus, fear of a government entity, or fear of people.
- 6) We embrace unity over and above our own personal preferences.** *John 17:20-26; Ephesians 4:1-6.*
Our unity in Jesus is directly tied to both our ability to glorify God and to the credibility of our witness in the world (John 17:20-26). We who are the Church are called to exercise humility, gentleness and patience with one another when our personal preferences do not align; this is how we "walk in a manner worthy" of our calling (Ephesians 4:1-6). Though our preferences for how and when we re-enter the church may not be met, we will embrace unity.