

## Theme: Making God Our Number One Priority

For generations to come, 2020 will be known as the year of social distancing due to a virus called COVID. And just think it was not isolated to one country, one nationality, one gender, one state, one city, one community, one neighborhood, one house, or one individual.

The year had other social undertones:

- a time of Census was ended prematurely. Although this count is critical to determine how much money the government should allot to communities.
- a time when offensive monuments were being taken down all over the nation.
- a time where deep rooted prejudices within society were being revealed (ie, the death of George Floyd).
- a time where a record number of children and women are missing.
- and a time where processes society trust are proving to be unstable (ie, voting, healthcare, unemployment, Inclusion and Diversity, etc...).

All of these combined are easily categorized as 'social dysfunction,' which is defined as;

- Any action or behavior that has negative consequences for a group or society.
- An effect of structures that fosters social instability.

For too long we limited dysfunction to a person or to a family, but 2020 heightened our awareness to be more widespread and that it is deeply intertwined into our society.

Social dysfunction is a result of man not taking heed to Gods warning:

Is 2:22;

Stop regarding man, whose breath [of life] is in his nostrils [for so little time]; For why should he be esteemed?

Matthew Henry commentary states, "Put not your trust in man, nor make even

the greatest and mightiest of men your confidence; cease to do so. Let not your eye be to the power of man, for it is finite and limited, derived and depending; it is not from him that your judgment proceeds. Let not him be your fear, let not him be your hope; but look up to the power of God, to which all the powers of men are subject and subordinate; dread his wrath, secure his favour, take him for your help, and let your hope be in the Lord your God.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

To Fear God is to have a specific sense of respect, awe, and submission for him.

Read Genesis 22 then consider these points;

- Most know Abraham as the Father of faith, who became the biological Father to his son of promise named Isaac at 100 years old.

- God tested [the faith and commitment of] Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he answered, “Here I am.” God said, “Take now your son, your only son [of promise], whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

- Abraham leaves his donkey with the servant and tells them only Isaac will accompany him the distance to worship God, and we will come back to you.

- seems Isaac was accustomed to this form of sacrifice as he inquired, "where is the lamb?"

- Abraham responded, "my Son God will provide."

- Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood, and bound Isaac on top.

- An Angel from heaven called out 'Abraham, Abraham the Lord said do not harm him.' And God provided a ram (mature male sheep, lamb is considered immature).

- Abraham named this place 'God will provide.'

- And because he did not withhold his only son, God swore to greatly multiply his descendants like the stars of heaven, and they shall possess the gate of their enemies. Through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

The Father of faith did not hesitate to Fear and obey God. Hebrews 11:6, But

without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Just think God supplied the altar and wood which we know as the Cross, and the sacrificial lamb was his only son Jesus. He hung, bleed and died, was buried in a tomb, and three days later resurrected with all power in his hands.

Both Jesus and the Father of Faith revered God thru sacrifice and prayers. By doing so they both passed the test of commitment to God.

2020 was the year we were socially distant to learn the valuable lesson of what is essential. Which is knowing God reigns Supreme and having a right relationship with him. It is this relationship that will cure the 'social dysfunction' in the land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

It's good that individuals are praying more. But the definition of people is: human beings in general or considered collectively.

The Church embodies a collective body of people. And when they work together they are deemed the 'Body Of Christ.' The physical body of Christ was removed off the earth, so the resurrected Body Of Christ would manifest with his power.

In 2021, let's be the Body Of Christ;

- concerned about the salvation of souls
- sacrificing unto God thru prayer and fasting

- continue to edify (encourage) and pray for one another
- seek Gods word and counsel on all things

**LET'S DO THIS ONE THING  
FOR NEXT YEAR...**



Encourage  
one another  
& build  
each other  
up