



House Group Bible Study-week commencing 5th April

Prepared by Mel Turner

You are invited to read the passage and comments and then contemplate the questions at home beforehand. Please join either Mark and Sarah's house group meeting on Tuesday @ 6pm or Matt's meeting on Thursday @ 7.30pm via Zoom, where you can share your thoughts on the study and pray together.

Let them know you would like to participate and they will be delighted to facilitate this for you.

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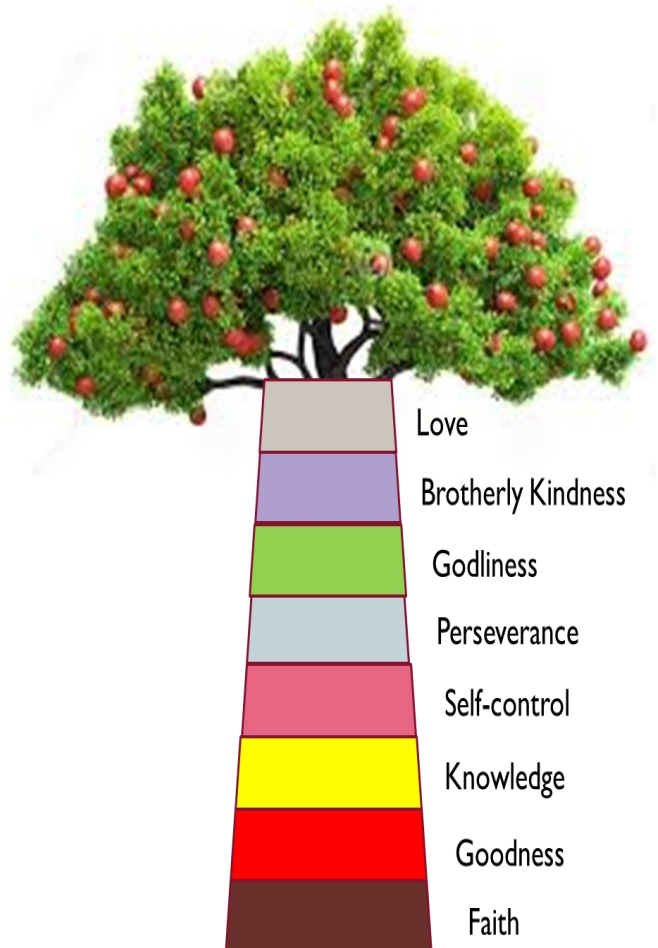
Staying together while being apart

Have a read of 2 Peter 1v 3-8

2 Peter 1:5-8 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



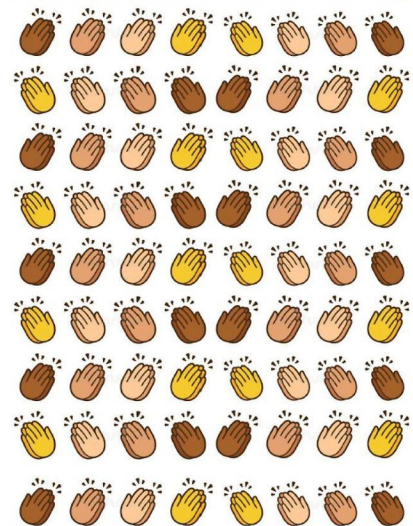
I am truly astonished and reassured by what is happening across the nation. **I see Almighty God at work.**

The last few weeks of the virus crisis, with world-wide consternation and loss of life; large scale closing down across the fabric of our national life with major loss of social, business and leisure activities and their hard impact on family, education and community activity - are unprecedented, even for those of us who remember well the devastation of WW2. And we aren't out of the wood yet.

However, the astonishing range of positive responses across the country is wonderful - and is ongoing!

The Government's programme of wide financial support and resourcing of the NHS (albeit slow it seems at local levels and in testing provision); the outstanding work of NHS and social care staff; the creation of large scale intensive care hospitals in almost next to no time; the flow of information, volunteers and so much more ...

... accompanied by the heartfelt Thursday evening street applause for front line staff, and a marvellous flow of community and individual responses - all reaching out in care and compassion.



But a question occurs to me. The outstandingly committed NHS intensive care staff are regularly and rightly being described as being on the 'front line'. Across the wide range of our national life...

- ♦ ***Are there other occupations which carry a 'front line' importance but it is unseen or even unrecognised?***

That issue apart, the nation has rediscovered, it seems to me, the enormous value and power of being together - even though we have to be apart from each other and crucially careful in unavoidable close contact and risky situations.

- ♦ ***So, what does this say to us?***

Before we start to answer that, let's watch a 'choir' video. Please don't misjudge what might appear at first to be just an amusing and clever small piece of entertainment.

<https://youtu.be/sTKJUxl8TL4>

Consider the following...

- ◆ Do you think that the idea of such a range of characters with such a variety of personal differences could reflect the make up of a church - or even ours?
- ◆ Is there/ should there be a hierarchy of importance in a fellowship of believers?
- ◆ Is the 'soloist' more important than the one who puts out the 'choir' chairs and makes the coffee - or whatever?
- ◆ Is the 'choir' picture a good one for a church?

Please read : 1 Cor. 12 v 12-27 - a rather long passage but it says a great deal about being together in the fellowship 'choir' and it goes on to raise the very important issue of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which always needs fresh attention.

- ◆ Is the issue here about how we value and judge other folk and relate to them?
- ◆ How wide is the spectrum of the Holy Spirit's giftings, which the Word makes quite clear are important in the enabling of the spiritual life of any fellowship of the Lord's people?

Covid-9 might stop us gathering together for our usual meetings this Easter, but *watch out for the emailing of replacements!*



It will never stop the church and we need to fight this crisis in prayer and together - absolutely nothing is able to separate us from the love of God that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ◆ please have a look at just one verse - 2 Peter 1 v 3
- ◆ let's listen and sing, "*What a faithful God have I, what a faithful God ...*"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dH8_SKkieJg

The Lord bless us from His abundance and strengthen our togetherness!

