

July 31st, 2020

On Thursday, July 30th Governor Evers declared a Public Health Emergency, and simultaneously issued an Executive Order requiring masks in most public places. The scope of the Order includes churches, which means that Cedarcreek meetings are subject to the Order.

Some of us at Cedarcreek welcome this Order while some of us at Cedarcreek disagree with this Order. We understand that. We want to let the church family know what it will mean for Cedarcreek meetings and we want to offer a perspective on how we as a church family might choose to respond to it all.

Cedarcreek will comply with the Executive Order. We are under the civil authority of Wisconsin, and we want to honor God by submitting to that authority whenever we can (Romans 13:1-5). That means that when you come to church this Sunday (August 2), you will need to have a mask. We have masks here if folks don't have one of their own. Disposable masks will be available at the coffee bar.

Whether you are one who welcomes or one who disagrees with the Order, we offer this perspective: Wearing a mask or not wearing a mask is, at the core, less an issue of righteousness and more an issue of preference or priority. You may value health and be motivated to take precautions to prevent sickness. You may value freedom and be motivated to take actions to preserve civil liberties. Neither of these are an issue of righteousness; that is, God doesn't command one or the other.

We suggest that God does command two things, and we would urge you to pray over these two things, asking God to help you know how they affect your decisions.

One, God commands us to not neglect meeting together (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42-47). At different times and in different places Christians have met as a church even if being discovered meant prison or death. God places a priority on our fellowship with one another. Think and pray about what that means to each of us in the current situation.

Two, God commands us to love and honor and respect one another, even in the face of differing opinions (Ephesians 5:21, Romans 14:19 {perhaps all of Romans chapters 14 and 15}). In a situation like this, each one's opinion, preference or priority about civil or health issues doesn't override our relationship to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Think and pray about how that shapes your interaction with Cedarcreekers who may think differently than you.

Please feel free to contact any one of us with thoughts or questions. We live in strange times. We're glad we can all go through these days together.

Mark, Justin and Rob