

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM PASTOR RANDY

On July 29, 2021, the Health Officer of the County of Sacramento (Olivia Kasirye) ordered all individuals in the county to wear face coverings indoors in public settings. This means that businesses, including our church, are ordered to “require all patrons to wear face coverings for all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status; and post clearly visible and easy-to-read signage at all entry points for indoor settings to communicate the masking requirements to all patrons.” ([CLICK HERE](#) to see the order)

I’m asking you to join me in responding to the Sacramento County mask order with Christian charity and concern for all people. There has been nothing in my lifetime that has brought about more division between brothers and sisters in the Lord than our political differences. These differences have bled over into every area of our lives. At the present, our political differences are affecting our responses to the most recent mask mandate for Sacramento County.

As an American I bristle at the “mandate” part of this order. On a personal level I’m concerned when government “mandates” me to do anything. Giving up personal liberties for causes that some perceive to be more politically motivated than for the common good of society is disturbing, to say the least. As an American I want freedom to choose the best path for me and my family. As an American I realize that my freedom comes with personal responsibility for my choices.

As a Christian I must consider my response from a different viewpoint. As a follower of Christ, I want to submit to what Jesus taught me and I want to reflect His attitude toward all people. This is the difficult part of my Christian commitment. I need to separate my feelings as an American citizen and my commitment to follow what I believe Jesus teaches me. I’m a proud American but nothing is more important than my commitment to Jesus.

I cannot think of a single reason any church in Sacramento County should be exempt from this order. We are NOT ordered to shut our doors. We are NOT ordered to reduce our capacity. We ARE ordered to wear a face covering. I’m asking you to join me in responding to the state mandated mask order with the selfless and sacrificial attitude that I see in Jesus. I believe that attitude would have us sacrifice our political viewpoints and American patriotism for the sake of Christian unity and uncommon charity toward those who are most vulnerable to the COVID virus and all its variants. That attitude would lead us to choose to gather while wearing a mask rather than decide not to come to church at all because of the face covering order. It’s an attitude that puts God first, others second, and yourself last.

With the goal of demonstrating to the world an uncommon Christian charity would you join me in choosing to wear a face covering beginning this Sunday (8-8-2021)? **I will not mandate anyone**, but would you, in the spirit of Christian unity and love for one another join me in wearing a face covering as you enter our church buildings this Sunday?

This mask order is not targeted at Christians or churches to keep us from worshiping God. It’s an indiscriminate order that affects all individuals in Sacramento County. **A friend pointed out to me that wearing a mask does not violate any scriptural principle.** It’s an irritation to some, yet to others, it’s viewed as an act of charity. Are you willing to join me in setting aside your personal vitriol of this politically charged issue and respond in such a way so that a watching world would say, “see, how they love God and one another?” This can divide us (mostly because of our political viewpoints) or it can be an opportunity for us to show the world how followers of Christ come together for a common cause. That cause is a lost and dying world that needs Christ. It won’t hurt anyone, who doesn’t believe wearing a mask is needed, to wear one. Getting upset and refusing to gather together because the church is encouraging attenders to wear a mask indoors would be a misdirected protest.

So, for a short time, would you join me in responding to the Sacramento County face covering order with Christian charity and concern for all people. Please wear a mask when you come to church for Bible Study and Worship. I’ll keep you updated when the “mandate” is lifted or when it no longer makes good sense for our church to follow what our County Health Officer is ordering.