

RESPONDING IN LOVE

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

Rom. 12:12-13

Following his encouragement to the Roman Christians to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of [their] mind, that by testing [they] may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom.12:2), Paul gave some practical instructions (12:3-14:20) of how they could live in such a way that reflects the light of Christ in challenging times. Such instructions call for the believers to rise above the common mentality and behaviour of society at that time and to conduct themselves in such a manner that would edify the community and please God.

In view of the latest safety guidelines regarding Chinese New Year visitations, many people are concerned about further restrictions and have responded via different platforms their opinion – some rationally supportive, some emotionally critical, others bear some humour. There are genuine concerns for the potential resurgence of COVID cases in Singapore and believers are not immune to the virus and unaffected by the latest guidelines. So, how are we as believers to respond to such guidelines?

Perhaps Paul’s practical instructions in Rom. 12:3-14:20 can provide some helpful pointers for us consider and construct our own responses to such challenging situations so that we reflect God’s grace and truth – Rejoice (12:12,15), Unity and Harmony (12:14-21), Obedience and Submission (13:1-7), Love (13:8-14), Respectful Understanding (14:1-21). Take the time to consider and then respond.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us when we succumb to the ways of the world and behave no differently as the world. You have called us to be Your salt and light in this world that people may see You and be saved. Therefore, grant us Your Spirit that we may live lives that are holy and acceptable in Your sight, and that people have know You as the One True Saviour. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for protecting Singapore thus far and granting our leaders wisdom and strength in making good decisions to ensure the safety of our people. Pray for God’s continual hand to be upon our nation and the leaders that we may be kept safe. May God grant our leaders the courage in making the necessary decisions in spite of how people may respond.
- Thank God for the community that support the Government safety initiatives through their respect and consideration, personal contribution, hospitality, kind gestures, time and gifts. We are not out of the woods yet and still need to be vigilant mentally, socially, emotionally and physically. Pray for the nation as a whole to be united in effort to keep each other safe and to prefer the needs to others.
- Thank God for the measures laid out thus far that have kept Singapore relatively safe in the midst of global changes. Pray for the people in Singapore to adjust well to new changes as the nation faces new and different challenges in the world that is beyond our control. Pray for our people to receive such changes in good spirit and respond in unity and respect for one another.
- Thank God that though churches could not have physical meetings, believers could still worship God in various ways and worship services were not halted completely. Pray that as churches respond to the new changes and implement ways to unite believers in worshipping and serving God, believers would continue to be faithful in their spiritual disciplines of reading God’s word, devoted prayers, loving fellowship and genuine worship of God.

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

Rom.13:8

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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