

**This past Sunday morning your session presented a statement which we have learned has caused confusion and concern; please forgive us. Please read and consider the following. As always, please contact one of your session members if you have questions.**

**Joe, Randy, Conley, Bryson, Chuck & Stephen**

In the 1st century church, there were times of disagreement in the body of Christ. Circumcision, eating food sacrificed to idols, the Lord's Supper, and holy days. Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church and at Trinity Presbyterian, we have our own disagreements, some regarding Covid-19. We have strongly held, and often opposing views, regarding CDC guidelines, NCDHS guidelines, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the World Health Organization, the current administration and vaccines. While we may struggle with inconsistencies or mistrust, we have the omniscient, sovereign and loving God and His consistent and trustworthy Word. It is what we would like to consider now:

### **The believer's freedom | 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10**

*<sup>23</sup>“We have the right to do anything,” we say – but not everything is beneficial. “We have the right to do anything” – but not everything is constructive. <sup>24</sup>No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*

*<sup>31</sup>So, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks, or the church of God...<sup>32</sup>even as we try to please everyone in every way. For we are not seeking our own good but the good of many...*

### **The weak and the strong | Romans 14**

*<sup>12</sup>...each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*

*<sup>13</sup>Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, let us make up our minds not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. <sup>14</sup>I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean... <sup>16</sup>Therefore, do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is a matter of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, <sup>18</sup>because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.*

*<sup>19</sup>Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

## **Imitating Christ's humility | Philippians 2**

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

The session has considered our responsibilities, as shepherds of Trinity Presbyterian Church, regarding Covid-19. In light of the fact that there are members of our fellowship who are hesitant to attend group worship because of their concerns of exposure, we are pursuing a renewed online worship experience.

Regarding corporate worship, our prayerful desire is that our members exercise our freedom in Christ with wisdom, always motivated by our love for God and our love for others. We can wear masks or not wear masks. We can distance or not distance ourselves. We can worship in person or from afar. There is no shame or judgment for anyone who may exercise any of these choices.

In closing, and if you do not read anything else, please consider Ephesians 4

*<sup>1</sup>I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*