

## Opening Up again

May 17th, 2020 by Kasey Crawford

Today's Passages: Romans 14:1-15:7

We are moving towards opening the church to gather together for worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

According to our God-given strengths and giftedness, we will react and respond differently.

**For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:4-5**

For those on the "apostolic" end of the spectrum they will be excited about the new adventure, the stepping out in Faith into the \_\_\_\_\_, the taking of new territory.

For those on the "pastoral" end of the spectrum they will be \_\_\_\_\_ aware that some will be uncomfortable and need to move slower toward the change.

Both responses (Faith and Compassion) are good and necessary to have in a church body!

How do we navigate the waters of gathering together in the midst of the unknown and changing aspects of the COVID situation?

"In the essentials unity; in the non-essentials liberty; in all things, charity."  
-St. Augustine (maybe)

Put on Love, it \_\_\_\_\_ the law and heart of God.

**Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8**

Don't quarrel over different \_\_\_\_\_, welcome each other (even those with different opinions).

**As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. Romans 14:1**

Don't judge each other, each person is accountable to God.

**Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. Romans 14:3-4**

Good people can be at \_\_\_\_\_ places, and that is ok.

**Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. Romans 14:5**

Don't force your way onto someone else, causing them to stumble.  
**never to put a stumbling block...in the way of a brother. Rom. 14:13**

If we grieve one another, we aren't walking in love.

**if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Romans 14:15**

Actively pursue conversations and actions that build up the other person.

**So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19**

Through God's grace, even with differing opinions, we can live in harmony with one another, which puts us in accord with Christ, so that we may have one \_\_\_\_\_ voice that brings God's glory!

**May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:6**

Responding to God...

What is God saying to you through His word today?