

Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

IN ACCORD WITH GOVERNOR BILL LEE'S EXECUTIVE ORDER #17, 21, 22, 23, EXTENDED Till APRIL 30, WE ARE EXERCISING OUR OWN GOOD JUDGMENT REGARDING THE SAFETY OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE, THERE WILL NOT BE A SCHEDULED SERVICE AT THE BUILDING OF THE ONEIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST APRIL 26. (WE WILL FOLLOW THE GOVERNOR'S GUIDELINES WHEN WE DO ASSEMBLE ON MAY 3).

IN MAKING THIS DECISION, WE RESPECT BIBLICAL WORDS:

1) "Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things" (**Romans 14:1**). The decision to worship together in one assembly has to be made by those stronger, but respecting those weaker in faith. "*It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak*" (**Romans 14:21**). Though some of us are ready to safely deal with social togetherness, one who "stumbles or is offended or is made weak" should not be pressured to attend, for they could not feel the encouragement from faith and fellowship in the worship service. For "he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat* from faith; for whatever *is not from faith is sin*" (**Romans 14:23**). ONLY THOSE WHO ARE PAST THEIR MISGIVINGS SHOULD FREELY ATTEND MAY 3.

2) Quarantine has forced a return to Patriarchy, or Father Rule! Before the Law of Moses, God dealt with families through the Father of the household. Christ's Law emphasized: "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (**Ephesians 6:4**). This should have given a reminder that Fathers are responsible for guiding their families in spiritual matters, and since all work was also ceased, then a several weeks-long opportunity was "imposed" on Fathers to make the most of it! ALSO, this period should have made painfully obvious that Fathers are essential to the health and well-being of every family unit with children! "Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?" (**Hebrews 12:9**) HOMES WITHOUT FATHERS, MOST OFTEN, CANNOT TEACH A COMPLETE RESPECT FOR GOD!

3) To a Samaritan, Jesus said, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father" (**John 4:21**). Proper worship of God begins in the individual, fills that home, and attends public gatherings wherever they take place. "The church of God which is at Corinth" had a stated time when "the whole church comes together in one place," that could impress an unbeliever who would "worship God" (**1 Corinthians 1:2; 14:23-25**). HOME WORSHIP DOES NOT REPLACE PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES FOR WORSHIP! -----jtpII