

Whispers of God...

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Covid Clarity

In a perfect world, everyone would agree on everything in total clarity, as we ride our unicorns and dance on rainbows. Instead, we have a real world with widespread disagreement, little clarity, no unicorns, and water vapor rainbows. So why are we so angry, critical, and reactive to all the disagreements about Covid info, stats, protocols, politics, tests, and vaccines? The short answer: fear, grief, and especially distrust.

Fear of the future and the unknown doesn't need much explanation, but it does bear mentioning that when we are fearful, thinking and acting rationally typically go out the window. The same thing is spawned by our universal grief and its five stages (denial; bargaining; anger; depression; acceptance) over losing a very familiar way of life with the coming of Covid-19. In short, with fear and grief at play, we can't easily think or act straight, thus, the tremendous lack of clarity. Which brings us to DISTRUST!!!!

As I've been reading, watching, talking, and working through so much conflicting information about Covid-19 from so many sources, at the end of the day, it is pretty apparent to me that it all comes down to who do you trust, or NOT!!!! So, here is my humble offering of how to try to get a bit of Covid clarity about who or what to trust.

Politicians and Parties. Are your views on Covid issues driven more by your reflexive trust in your chosen politicians and party, and your passionate distrust of the other guys, or by medical professionals and agencies whose training and focus are on health issues? (Be brutally honest with yourself on this one.)

Professional Media. To what degree are your views on Covid issues fueled by the degree of your distrust in news media and your belief that they are driving a particular agenda?

Social Media. When reason has been largely displaced by emotion in decision making (as most will admit is at play in political elections and life in general), to what degree are your views on Covid issues based on presumptuous and even ignorant rhetoric on social media?

The FDA and CDC. To what degree do you trust or distrust these two agencies staffed by health care professionals whose focus is to do their best to issue recommendations and policies that would best protect the public at large? If you distrust them, which of the non-medical sources above have impacted your view of these medical agencies the most?



Medical Consensus and Dissent. Now it gets a bit tougher when we admit that not all medical professionals agree on how to assess, interpret, and draw conclusions from tons of research, data, and stats regarding Covid-19, vaccine options, and effective protocols. But what else is new? Professionals in disagreement is true in business, investing, diets, education, church, law enforcement, law, government, the Supreme Court and so on. And how do we make rational decisions in the face of disagreements in these arenas? We typically go with the consensus opinion, gratefully comply, and take the minority dissenters with a grain of salt. Unless we are into . . .

Conspiracy Theories. The FDA, CDC, corporate boards, government officials, school administrators, church leadership, and the like, deliberate hot issues (often and appropriately behind closed doors) until they can come to a consensus (rarely unanimous) decision regarding policies that impact those they serve. If we trust them, we accept and comply with their policies. If we think they are conspiring against us (severe distrust), then we don't. So, regarding Covid-19, what would be the source and basis of your belief in a conspiracy theory?

Quasi-clear decisions. It might help to remind ourselves that many decisions in life are quasi-clear, not crystal clear, and so it will be with your Covid decisions on masks, social distancing, quarantines, vaccines, testing, etc. That's okay. Take a deep breath. Now, consider . . .

Agreement and/or Accommodation. All married couples soon discover they will never agree on everything, and hopefully they learn to graciously accommodate their spouse's extra sensitivities as needed. We will continue to find ourselves at that crossroad with each other in our country, every day, in the months, and maybe even years ahead. While we may not be able to trust each other enough to agree, I hope and pray we can trust each other enough, and think clearly enough to accommodate as many of the protective Covid protocols as our consciences will allow. As the good book says, let's love and serve one another.

Loving and Serving with you, Pastor Mark