

Why It Was Right to Cancel Public Church Gatherings
Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 13:1-7

I. We have demonstrated Love by stopping our large-group gatherings.

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

Jesus was only asked one question, “Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus answered that question but immediately added: *And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

II. We have done our Duty by stopping our large-group gatherings.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. (Romans 13:1-4)

“The most terrifying words in the English language are, ‘I'm from the government and I'm here to help.’”

– President Ronald Reagan

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

III. We have shown wisdom by stopping our large-group gatherings.

Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge. (Prov.23:12)

We have sought to fulfill our God-given responsibility to:

- Love our neighbor as ourselves.
- Fulfill our Christian duty to obey proper government authority.
- Act wisely.