

Covid Conversations: “Everyone is Out of Step But Our Jock”

A dear friend and I recently had a conversation about my not obeying the government's rules and guidance concerning the coronavirus restrictions. I shall not include the entire conversation here, but it may be that what is reproduced below will bless and strengthen other 'dissidents' to the narrative...

Everyone is Out of Step but Our Jock

My Friend:

The basis of the saying is that a group of people are given the same explanation, directive, rules about a given matter; everyone has been told exactly the same, so they all begin on the same playing field, as it were. Each person considers the same explanation/rules, but Jock decides to differ from ALL of the other persons. These other persons ALL agree with each other.

So, the basis of the saying is that Jock is the only one to interpret the instructions differently from the others in the Group ... What is the chance of Jock being right as opposed to the vast majority of the others on the Group? It's a reference to the view that Jock would consider himself right no matter how many people think differently and no matter if he is disregarding the rules.

Me:

Yes, I agree with you that [we] have all been given the same information, explanation, directive, rules concerning C19. But in the saying above, in which the same information is given to a Group ... there seems to be two assumptions... (1) that the information/instructions/rules are actually right, and (2) that, because, in his considering of them, Jock has come to a different conclusion than the rest of the Group, and that puts him in the minority, then, *de facto*, Jock (the minority) *must* be wrong and the rest of the Group (the majority) *must* be right. Am I understanding that correctly?...

But suppose the instructions given *aren't* right? Suppose they are incorrect, or unhelpful, or unsafe, or immoral, or unbiblical, or even evil?... If Jock can see that there is something wrong concerning the instructions and that they could result in great damage in some way, should he still obey them unquestioningly just because everyone else in the Group is? (I'll come back to this later in my email.)

The question I am trying to bring to the attention of folks, through my website pages and my articles on the subject, is not whether everyone has been given the same information or rules, but whether that information and/or those rules are *right*. In the instance of C19, are the government's diktats scientifically and medically correct or incorrect, are they helpful or harmful, and, where God's Church is concerned, are they biblical or unbiblical?

So, the problem comes when we take into account, as we must, that God *never* tells His People to outsource their critical faculties to another person, be it concerning biblical *or* political issues. He has given *everyone*, not just State politicians and Church leaders, a mind with which to think about, analyse, and weigh up *all* issues, no matter their source.

This is precisely the problem of Roman Catholicism: the laity are not allowed to think for themselves; the Pope must think for them. The laity must not question whether Roman Catholic doctrines are scriptural; they must just believe and obey them without question.

This was also the problem with the 'Heavy Shepherding' movement in the evangelical churches some decades ago. The so-called 'Shepherds' did the thinking and praying *for* the believers – and needless to say an enormous amount of spiritual abuse resulted.

No-one, be they politician or [church leader], has a monopoly on the truth or a hotline to God denied the 'ordinary' believer. Every Christian is to test "*all* things" as God leads them.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God..." (1 John 4:1)

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." (2 Timothy 2:15a)

"But watch thou in all things" (2 Timothy 4:5a).

Those few references are just the ones I can remember off the top of my head. But as you know, there are numerous such scriptures, and they are not just directed to church leaders; they are God's instructions to *all* believers, whether high or lowly.

Back in 1994, many Christians obeyed these scriptures and began a serious study of the Toronto Blessing and its protégé, the Alpha Course (along with all the other questionable doctrines underlying the TB), when they hit the UK church at that time, and this current political situation concerning C19 is no different in principle. In the case of C19 also, many Jocks have discerned some discrepancies in the information [given to the Group] and as a result have begun to research it for themselves.

I hope that [church leaders] would also seek the Lord as to what is the truth of the C19 situation, rather than simply relying on the Government's advisors and the mainstream media, and if they do, praise God. But even if they don't, the Lord still requires the believer in the pew to do their own homework and to obey God accordingly.

Wearing Face Masks

My Friend:

As regards the edicts from the Govt. about all wearing a mask, which is the situation in countries around the world, you will not wear a mask – and don't have a medical exemption from wearing one. So, again, the 'Jock' saying applies.

Me:

We all know there are things which will harm our health – e.g., smoking, drinking too much alcohol, eating junk food, etc., etc., - and so we avoid them. The mask issue is no different. Is it really helpful for everyone to be wearing face masks, or could they actually be damaging our health and weakening our immune systems – thereby making us *more* susceptible to C19 and other coronaviruses and respiratory ailments? Do the kinds of masks being worn by the public – surgical masks, bandanas, scarves – *really* help to prevent the spread of C19?

It is incumbent upon each of us to examine the scientific and medical claims made before we don our face coverings.

(Whether the mask ruling applies in all countries around the world is neither here nor there. In fact, the mask ruling does *not* apply in all countries.)

A medical exemption isn't the only valid exemption. Please have a look at the government webpages which list the different exemptions, and which also state that: *"No person needs to seek advice or request a letter from a medical professional about their reason for not wearing a face covering."* I carry my exemption card in my handbag at all times, and if anyone wants to see it, they only have to ask. What they do *not* have the right to do, within the Government rules regarding face masks, is to judge whether someone else is exempt or not.

If you have read my article [Why I Don't Wear A Facemask](#) wherein I argue my case for not wearing a mask, and if you have been able to look through my webpages with numerous articles, videos, quotes, and comments discussing facemasks, you will see that I (as does everyone else, in fact) have very sound health, medical, scientific, psychological, and spiritual reasons for declining to oblige the government concerning mask wearing.

If folks truly have a witness in their spirit from the Lord to wear a face mask (similarly, to social distance from other people), and are not just doing so to please men or to keep the peace, then absolutely they must act accordingly. But I won't make myself a hypocrite by wearing a face mask simply to virtue signal my 'righteousness' or to appease the compliant.

And if folks choose not to examine for themselves the evidence for and against wearing face masks, then that also is their right and their choice. But Proverbs 18:13 states, that, without first *"hearing the matter"*, they do *not* have the right to *"answer"* – to criticize or condemn – those who *have* done their homework and who, on the basis of their research, reject the wearing of face masks.

God's Church is Not Just a Club / Social Distancing

My Friend:

As a member, attendee of any Organisation, Club, Association ... we have to abide by the rules of that Body.

Me:

The Church isn't just an Organisation, or a Club, or an Association. As you know, the Church is described in Scripture as the Body of Christ:

"...the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Another scripture that also describes well the Body of Christ, though it is found in the Old Testament and is not speaking directly of the Church, is:

"They that are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered" (Job 41:17).

We cannot "sunder" our physical bodies, such that an arm is in one corner of the room, a leg is upstairs, and a foot is in another part of the house, and it is exactly the same for the Church: God has chosen to describe His Church as a Body for a very good reason.

For example, as C19 pertains to social distancing or maintaining a physical distance from one another of 6ft (which rule, it has been admitted by Robert Dingwall, a Government advisor from *NERVTAG*, was "*conjured up out of nowhere*"), if the Body is to be kept separated, if Christians are to fear to be close to one another, if believers are not allowed to "have a chat" after the Sunday service, then how can we be said to be "*fitly joined together*"? How can we minister to one another fully in the myriad ways the Bible instructs us to if we must all 'keep our distance' from one another and not speak with each other?

All churches are members of the Body of Christ. All the rules for the Body of Christ are found in the Bible, and those are the rules by which the Body of Christ abides. It goes without saying that if a church's rules are in line with, and in harmony with, the Bible, then believers must abide by them – and they will rejoice to do so.

Of course, the godless State cannot understand spiritual things. Of course, the godless State thinks of the Church as just another 'Club' or 'Association' made up of disparate and unrelated individuals who just happen to have the same 'hobby'. But church leaders are not ignorant of the Scriptures and have no excuse for disregarding the meaning and purpose of God's analogy of the 'Body' for His Church.

Guidance, Rules, Laws

My Friend:

All persons have been given the same edicts about Covid from ... the Government. You have decided to be at variance with ... the rules (indeed Law) laid down by the Govt.

Me:

God takes precedence over the State. His Church obeys Him first, and then the State in so far as the State obeys God. When the State clashes with God's Word, if the Government rules that churches are to disobey God's commands in Scripture for His Church, then, yes, I'm afraid that Christians must be at "variance" with those in the Church who will obey Caesar's rules over God's Word in the matter. As God's People, Christians must do as Daniel did – we must disobey the Government if to obey the Government would be to disobey God.

The Church is not under the authority of the State:

"God has commanded three institutions within human society: the family, the state, and the church. Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected. When any one of the three institutions exceeds the bounds of its jurisdiction it is the duty of the other institutions to curtail that overreach" [John MacArthur].

"If the state presumes to forbid what God commands, or commands what God forbids, the state has moved beyond its sphere of authority, and those who obey God must at that point resist such arrogant presumption ... State omnipotence is the opposite of Bible teaching" [Dr. Joe Boot].

So, yes, the nation and the churches have been given the same information/guidance/rules concerning C19; but it doesn't follow that all of it is good or right or helpful or biblical. Neither does it mean that it is God's will for His Church (elders, deacons, or laity) to bow down before Nebuchadnezzar simply because Nebuchadnezzar orders us to.

Regarding whether they are rules or Law: very few of the Government's diktats over the last six months have been passed into UK Law – which is why, in its numerous webpages on C19, the Government constantly refers to "guidance", "rules", and "should". There are very few references to "Law" or "must". Please see my article [Rules Are Rules!](#) in this regard.

Daniel too was at "variance" with the State's rules of his day – as were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Also the Hebrew midwives, King David at one point, the disciples, and the Lord Jesus Himself when He healed the sick on the sabbath day. Being at "variance" with the Government's tyrannical diktats doesn't bother me, ... but not being in step with Scripture *does* bother me.

I Was Only Obeying Orders...

My Friend:

Jock decides to differ from ALL of the other persons. These other persons ALL agree with each other ... what is the chance of Jock being right?? ... Jock would consider himself right as opposed to the vast majority of the others in the Group. It's a reference to the view that Jock would consider himself right no matter how many people think differently and no matter if he is disregarding the rules – when all have been given the same information.

Me:

I hope that some of what I wrote in my previous email about the minority and the majority relates to your explanation here: viz, being in a minority (even if it's a minority of one) doesn't *per se* make someone wrong?...

To continue the section earlier in this email, there is another aspect to the issue of "*disregarding the rules*". If the instructions/rules are wrong or incorrect or even evil, then Jock is right to disregard them, even if he is the only one to do so. I don't need to say anything here regarding the Nazis who obeyed the rules of the Fuhrer to round up the Jews and gypsies and ship them off to Auschwitz, or the Communist torturers in the Gulags of the USSR...

Suffice it to say that "*I was only doing what I was told to do*" was not an acceptable excuse at the Nuremberg Trials. According to the Court at Nuremberg, Jock would have been right to disobey the instructions and the rest of the Group wrong to follow them.

You may think I'm over-stating my case by referring to the examples above, but it matters not in the Lord's sight whether the issue is great or small; "*I was only following orders*" or "*I was only doing the same as everyone else*" will cut no ice with the Lord when we stand before Him and He asks us why we didn't obey Him to test and prove *all* things.

The guidance/rules surrounding C19 are changed and contradicted by the Government every five minutes - no need for examples; we all know the ridiculousness of them all, and that "The Science" is nowhere to be seen despite the Government's protestations to the contrary. Many folks in the country are now saying how confusing they find the endlessly-changing guidance/rules.

But "*God is not the author of confusion*" (1 Corinthians 14:33a), and with the introduction of Government-approved 'snitching' on neighbours, Government-mandated 'Covid-Marshals' patrolling shops, weddings, and funerals, and the extremely worrying trend now of political policing, there is no excuse for Christians to at least *begin* to discern that there's something terribly wrong with all this.

A Democracy

My Friend:

It is only expressing our different view which, in a democracy, we are allowed to do, but equally, in a democracy, having expressed our view, we must abide by the Laws of the Land as laid down by the Party in Office which has been voted in by a majority in the Country. That's the system in this democratic country of ours! ... if a person decides they prefer to drive on the right hand side of the road despite the Highway Code saying 'drive on the left' it would be absolute chaos...

Me:

I do abide by the Laws of the Land.

You use driving as your example: Driving on the left and speed limits are (1) rules that have been passed into UK law through the due democratic process, and (2) they are in *proportion* (unless the speed limit is 20mph as it is in the wannabe-Agenda21 city of Brighton – but I still abide by that limit when I visit Brighton).

C19 rules and guidance (1) are not bills that have been debated in Parliament, passed both houses, received royal assent, and thence become UK Law, and (2) are way out of proportion to the current health problem faced by the nation.

Moreover, the Government's C19 rules and guidance have actively killed thousands of elderly people in care homes, and are doing serious and long-lasting physical, psychological, and economic harm to millions of the rest of the population.

It is true that the UK used to be a democracy. But that has long ceased. The UK is, to all intents and purposes, now a One-Party State (notwithstanding the danger of Jeremy Corbyn as leader having passed). And the Government's dictatorial behaviour over C19 is actively serving to subvert any remnants of the hitherto democratic process in the UK.

You and I disagree over whether the UK is sliding into a tyrannical fascist/communist State, and I know you have no patience with the idea of the New World Order, *aka:* One World Government, Agenda 21/2030, The Great Reset, the Fourth Industrial Revolution. That's fine. We will have to continue to disagree concerning this, and just wait to see what comes down the line...

But for me, in regard to the work I have done over the years on these things, if it looks like a duck, and walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it's probably a duck...

Love One for Another

My Friend:

We mustn't fall out over this.

Me:

Thankyou ... for your assurance that our difference of opinion in this matter of C19 doesn't need to come between our fellowship with one another. I am very glad to know this.

I dearly love my brothers and sisters ... And that is partly why ... I am so much at "*variance*" with the Government's unscientific, unlawful, and unbiblical diktats regarding C19, and why I am trying so hard to bring the truth about C19 ...

My spirit is grieved to see the church fellowship labouring under the Government's heavy yoke, when there's no need to; when we could just seek God in this matter, and obey Him whose rules for His People are perfect and whose "*yoke is easy and burden light*" (Matthew 11:28-30)...

God bless you,
Liz

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8th October 2020
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For more articles and comments concerning the Coronavirus and the Church, please see: [Churches: Fearing God or Man?](#)