

Years ago, I remember visiting an Islander who was rehabbing in the old west wing of War Memorial Hospital. She was not a member of my church but I had learned that she was there and thought my dropping in might be an encouragement to her. So we were chatting away when she begins sharing some deeper things going on for her, when all of a sudden, she stopped. Looking up at me, maybe realizing she's speaking to a clergy person, she confesses, "Oh, but I'm not a religious person." To which I quickly replied with a smile, "And neither am I".

I've always been a bit of an outlier (outlaw?) when it comes to religious rules and regulations. My personality type values the oftentimes fuzzy world of relationships and intuition and feelings. Now, I admit, that can be slippery ground. We need rules and facts and systems. Order is important for functioning as individuals and society in general and I respect that. Healthy fences make good neighbors, right? But, while I do appreciate orderly processes (I did teach biology and chemistry for a number of years), my true home is in the *heart*. The "heart" is that place that recognizes the invisible stuff like love, purpose, value, and yes... God. It is the place for art and awe and wonder. The Bible also refers to it as "soul" or "spirit". Science labels it the "subconscious" or "unconscious" mind.

The Bible also affirms that EVERYONE has this "heart" capacity to lovingly connect with the world around them. It's a choice that resides within each of us, all the time, in all places. During this extraordinary period of time, I've witnessed people making extraordinary choices to exercise compassionate connection and I've witnessed choices that highlight fearful *disconnection*, as well. Some have drawn closer in new and creative ways to family or friends or nature or themselves, even within the restrictions in place. Others have withdrawn into, what they perceive, as a stronghold of safety. Ironically, it seems that building walls of separation serves only to heighten anxiety and empower the icy grip of fear.

So, am I saying just tear the walls down? Not really. I am inviting us to find that elusive BALANCE between structure (rules, laws, walls, protection) and spirit (love, compassion, beauty, connection). How we balance these two forces affects so many different aspects of our lives: politically, financially, marriage, family, mental and physical health... practically every aspect of life. And the best word I can think of to describe the best approach to this delicate balancing act is WISDOM.



WISDOM listens deeply to the facts at hand and moves forward in a timely fashion. Wisdom embraces reality in all its raw clarity and then takes action for the common good. Often, I think of wisdom and courage as close running mates. It's not enough to simply know how or when to act. Wisdom finds its completion through courageous and sacrificial action. And how we need wise actions today!

So I'm doing a series on "Prayer" these days, which I call an intentional connecting to "the important stuff" of life. It is opening our hearts to be teachable by the One who is the Source of Wisdom. The Bible says that God gives this wisdom freely and generously. So it's not a supply problem. It's a trust issue. Can we learn to trust the direction of the Spirit to guide us, both individually and corporately, to define whatever our "new normal" will be?

I pray we can.

Yours,

*Scott*

*P.S. You are invited to join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 on the Lighthouse Christian Church Facebook page for a time on inspiring music, a practical life-changing message, and an interactive time of sharing & support. And check out our website, [www.LighthouseChurchDrummondIsland.com](http://www.LighthouseChurchDrummondIsland.com), for more opportunities to connect!*