

November 11, 2020

Dear Apollo Baptist Church Family,

The pastoral staff and I have made the difficult decision to close in person gatherings on campus of over 10 people for the next two Sundays. It has come to our attention that one of our church members tested positive for COVID-19. Although this church member did not attend any church gatherings since originally exposed, their immediate family members attended Sunday church meetings on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The church member did not know they had contracted COVID-19 until the following day. So, to be clear, to our knowledge no one has attended church gatherings while positive for the virus. This would normally not be sufficient grounds to close in person gatherings, but the level of exposure by an attendee to a live-in family member with a confirmed case of the virus is too high to ignore.

The good news is, at the time of this letter, the infected church member is asymptomatic, in good health, and in good care. Please pray for their recovery and for none of their family members to contract the virus as well. Our office will go about informing attendees who were in the closest contact with this family. However, out of the interest of privacy, the church office will not be releasing the identity of the infected church member, though the family has made no such request and has actively been testifying to the power of Christ in their requests for prayer. If you are aware or become aware of the identity of the infected church member, please use that as an opportunity to extend your love, prayers, and care for their family while not spreading that information on your own. Always remember that we are the body of Christ. Though our outer bodies are wasting away, our souls are being renewed by the Spirit of Christ every day. Let us continue to proclaim to the world that neither height, nor depth, nor enemies, nor viruses will be able to break our love for each other or separate us from the God who loves us. I look forward to being back in person for our Family Revival Night on November 24<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, I will see you on YouTube, brothers and sisters (I guess, more accurately, you will see me).

Gary Derbyshire,

Senior Pastor