

Serving One Another In & Through IBC

Dear IBC Family

As I mentioned during our services this past Sunday (3/15), we, as followers of Jesus, have an amazing opportunity to share the good news of Jesus (see [here](#) for practical ways to do this), both in *word* and *deed*, to a world stricken with fear, panic, and various degrees of financial & social strain (click [here](#) for how to respond to worry & fear). Paul says in Ephesians 5:16 to “make the best use of our time.” And some of you are definitely doing that already. Some of you have already identified specific needs that families have (i.e. childcare while parents are at work, etc.). A number of you have already raised the question: *How can we (IBC) come to the aide of others in need?* First off, let me just say that I am so encouraged by your question because it not only communicates an empathetic awareness of one another needs, but also a desire to help. Some have suggested we open up the church so that its facilities can be used as a temporary daycare. Or at the very least, a place to care for younger kids until a parent/guardian returns from work. This no longer seems like an option we can consider given the new state regulations. But I’d like to offer another solution...

One of the many “mantras” that we often repeat at IBC is: *the body takes care of the body*. This, of course, can include IBC endorsed programs, benevolence, deacon/deaconess ministries, and the like. But the primary intention of this value is to encourage individual responses to individual needs. More specifically, when you become aware of someone’s need, then you become the first responder to that need. Acts 2:45 says that the early church sold their possessions and belongings and distributed the proceeds to everyone, as any had need. Of course, it’s possible that you may not be able to meet someone’s need (as I was informed this past Sunday). And in that case, you have the opportunity to rally others to come to the aide of another.

Let me break this down with a few simple examples:

- Those involved in a life group/small group/Bible study should meet the needs of anyone in your group (as much as you are able)
- Those not involved in a group (as listed above) should reach out to those in their peer group
- Those who have little social connection can email the church office (ibc@indbible.org) to inform church leadership of specific need(s)

Some might push back and ask, “*Shouldn’t the church be meeting the needs of its people?*” And the short answer is a resounding, YES! But a “yes” with an important caveat: you are the church. And because you are the church, you have the opportunity (and responsibility) to be the church and meet the needs that God puts in front of you. But as mentioned above, if you are unable to meet someone’s need, then please involve others and church leadership when necessary. The elders are meeting this week to make decisions in how to appropriate funds so that IBC can sustain those in financial distress. Benevolence will also be working closely with members in need.

Once again IBC family, we have an amazing opportunity to be a timely blessing to both our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as, to others who are not followers of Jesus...yet. May this “unplanned” season (unplanned to us, but completely known by God) be your opportunity to represent Jesus Christ well and to make Him famous by your actions. May the world stand in awe at the generosity of the saints! And may God glorify Himself through your willingness to respond to whomever He puts in front of you.

Blessings

Your Lead Pastor