

## When Loving Each Other Means Not Seeing Each Other

When Jesus was asked to summarise the Law he distilled it down to two commands: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind; the second command is to love your neighbour as yourself (cf Matt 22:34-40).

On Wednesday the Prime Minister of Australia announced some strict measures to combat the Covid19 spread and help flatten the curve. Flattening the curve has been the catch cry during this period—and is basically the hope of medical professionals that through good hygiene practices and ‘social distancing’ we will be able to keep the number of infections low enough that serious cases will not overload our already loaded medical facilities. If the curve is not flattened, if the number of infections is allowed to grow unchecked, then the number of serious infections will quickly overwhelm our systems and people will die who might not have—Italy being a particularly serious example of this.

The virus itself has so far clearly shown itself to be quite deadly for elderly generations and those with compromised immune systems, and it is not ‘just like the flu’. Given this information, and given the demographics of our church, we believe that as an act of loving our church members, doing good to the household of faith (cf Gal 6:10), and ultimately as an act of loving God, we would heed the government’s warnings on this matter and temporarily cancel our services.

So, it was a little disappointing to hear recently of someone breaking the government mandated 14 days’ self-isolation and brushing off concerns with, ‘I’m young...’ and ‘You should have more faith.’

Let me explain why this is not only naïve and foolish, but also breaking the greatest commandment #2 and ultimately commandment #1: if you were to catch the virus then sure, being of young age would mean that you would have a high chance of survival—but what of those to whom you have passed it on during your contagious incubation period? What of the neighbour three or four steps removed from you who has received the virus because you chose to ignore the warnings? That is not loving your neighbour as yourself.

And if you are willingly choosing to not love your neighbour, you cannot say that you are truly loving God. The two are tied together. Christians who do not heed governmental authority in these matters (cf Romans 13) or your church leadership are not demonstrating faithfulness.

So let this be an exhortation for us all—let us care for each other in this season by heeding the warnings of our government, practicing good hygiene and appropriate social distancing, and to do so not out of merely lip service but out of love for God and love for our neighbour.



22 March 2020 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

## Welcome, we’re glad you’re here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at [www.slechurch.org.au](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

### This Week: The Welcoming Church — Knowledge vs Love

Knowing truth is not enough: applying it in loving ways is what is most important. Our knowledge must never be used to puff ourselves up and lack consideration for others, instead our knowledge should always be used in a way that lovingly builds up others.



Next Week: 1 Corinthians 8-11

## Today’s Service

**Welcome and Singing** Your Word of Life  
Servants of the Gospel  
Come People of the Risen King

### Holy Communion

### Offering

### Community News

**Bible Reading** Isaiah 44:12-24;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Sermon** By Pastor Ben Ho

**Song of Response** Speak O Lord

## Stay Connected

- [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)
- [www.sle.church](http://www.sle.church)
- +61 490 760 152
- [info@sle.church](mailto:info@sle.church)
- 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [sle.church/groups](https://www.sle.church/groups) to find a group that you can join.

---

# Say hello

---

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.  
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

---

## Our Pastors

---

### SENIOR PASTOR BEN HO

**Mobile:** +61 433 581 335

**Email:** ben.ho@sle.church

### PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

**Mobile:** +61 411 621 159

**Email:** steven.tran@sle.church

---

## Financial Update

---

Last Week	\$4,423.50
Weekly Required (adjusted)	\$6,379.00
Shortfall 2020	\$4,180.00

### Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

**A/C Name:** SLE Church  
**Bank:** National Australia Bank  
**BSB:** 084-424  
**A/C No:** 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

---

## Prayer Points

---

### PRAISE GOD THAT PESTILENCE, DISEASE, AND PANDEMICS DO NOT TAKE GOD BY SURPRISE.

Praise God that He remains sovereign, in control, and good even in these anxious times.

### PRAY FOR THE ONGOING PANDEMIC SITUATION

which continues to grip our nation's, and world's, attention. Pray that our governments will continue to act wisely for the health and benefit of all. Pray for the many who will now be affected by the closures and cancellation of things: not only for the sick, but also for those who will lose jobs and whose businesses are being impacted.

### PRAY FOR WISDOM AND SAFE

TRAVEL for the students among us who have had to return to Singapore, or elsewhere, as borders close up.

**PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIANS** to speak about the hope we have that extends beyond this life. Pray for courage to speak clearly and faithfully, and pray that God's Spirit would move in our friends and family as they hear us speak about Jesus' death and resurrection as the source of our comfort in times of fear.

### PRAISE GOD FOR THE BOOK OF

**JONAH** and the encouragements and challenges we received throughout. Pray that we would truly fear God and worship Him in obedience, that we would not presume upon His grace, that we would courageously and fearlessly declare the gospel and judgement in our evangelism, and pray that we would be warm and welcoming to everyone who comes into our gatherings —displaying to them the grace and mercy we have received and enjoy.

---

## Community News

---

### EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISM 12 APRIL

Please speak to the pastors if interested.

### LIVE STREAM

From 22 March to 5 April, all our services will be streamed online. For more details, go to [sle.church/live](https://sle.church/live).

---

# 1. The Welcoming Church—Knowledge vs Love [1 Cor 8:1-13]

---

1. Introduction

2. Knowledge and Love

A. Knowledge and love (vv1-3)

B. Knowledge: food offered to idols (vv4-7)

C. The loving/unloving use of knowledge (vv8-13)

3. Application: How Are You Using Your Knowledge?

A. Puff up

B. Tear down

C. Build up