

FAMILY TIES

Kinship – The Sequel

As the COVID-19 situation strikes the heart of men with fear, many countries are battling with survival between life and death to get the virus at bay and controlled. The current circumstance is filled with anxiety, despair and hopelessness. We were all not prepared for something of this scale that started from one place and has hit over 150 countries in the world.

I am saddened by the news every day that highlighted the infected numbers and deaths in the top few countries worst hit by the COVID-19. Families were affected. In some cases, at least half of the families perished. I was reminded of God's love for us and how He has died for us that we might live. Our lives are precious in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 5 speaks to us about the importance of courage and patience in times of tribulations and afflictions. We are reminded of the eternal life after death. All these may just be concepts to many people during such times, but it is the assurance from God that we can always go to Him and lean on Him because we need him all the time. The current situation is a wake-up call for many of us who dwell in our comfort zone for a long time.

2 Corinthians :1-21

New International Version (NIV)

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether

we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The current climate spurs me to continue the sharing following the article on “Kinship” written late last year. Then, my cousin and I spent time with a few of our family members (my cousin’s father who is also my mother’s second brother, my parents and my auntie who is the wife of my mother’s youngest brother) who visited my mother’s eldest brother in Hatyai. They have not met each other for decades. I am thankful to God for the opportunity for this trip. God makes all things beautiful in His Time, even in the sight of illness and dire circumstances. 😊

My cousin and I arranged to visit my mother’s youngest brother during the Chinese New Year period. I took courage in prayers to fetch my parents to my uncle and auntie’s residence in Ang Mo Kio. I was so glad that I drove and made it. Though we got lost on the way back because I missed the entry to head back to Bedok Reservoir, the journey was heart-warming for me. My parents were trying to guide me into the right roads. I had the chance to be with my parents as we

drove back. This may seem like a simple and day-to-day affair, but it was a close-to-heart moment for me. I can actually do something for my parents.

God has always asked us to take courage in Him. My youngest uncle could not make it for the trip to Hatyai because of his severe diabetic condition. He could not take trips or walk for long period of time as he was bedridden for many years. He has to be taken care of. When I saw him, his arms were still bleeding under the plasters with needle marks spread across his forearm. He managed to walk out slowly with help to sit and chat with his family.



Do you know that my cousin shared that they visited my youngest uncle in hospital when he had a fall early this year? She told me that they prayed with my youngest uncle. He was once a Catholic. I was elated that he was open to be prayed for.

I will always treasure moments like this where my family can get together. God makes our family ties special in His own way for us. There is a lot to do to stay in touch with our family and relatives. There is also a lot at stake when we do not pray and make time for our family. Never give up with God by your side! 😊

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