

Thinking Biblically about 2020

Week 6: How should Christians think about the COVID crisis?

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(1) What did the COVID crisis reveal about Christians and the church?

(2) Evangelicalism's response to a third world "culture" has resulted in a four-way fracturing:

(a) Neo-Fundamentalist Evangelical

- *Concerns*: the church's leftward drift, secular ideologies, and hostility to Christianity
- *Response*: culture war
- *COVID response*: ???

(b) Mainstream Evangelical

- *Concerns*: the fulfillment of the great commission
- *Response*: primarily evangelistic engagement with some cultural conflict
- *COVID response*: ???

(c) Neo-Evangelical

- *Concerns*: concerned with global Christian issues as "global evangelicals"
- *Response*: spiritual engagement with serious concern over politicization.
- *COVID response*: ???

(d) Post-Evangelical

- *Concerns*: a Christianity distinct from the misguided "political Evangelicalism."
- *Response*: social justice pursuits are core to faithful Christian mission
- *COVID response*: ???

Implications – Three Types of Churches:

Type A Church – a church comprised of almost entirely 1's and 2's

Type B Church – a church comprised of almost entirely 2's and 3's

Type C Church – a church comprised of almost entirely 3's and 4's

(3) The COVID crisis in our country is a manifestation of a third world culture, and the same crisis in the church is a manifestation of the fracturing of Evangelicalism.

- COVID has been politicized (e.g., Health issue vs. Liberty issue).
- Masks have been politicized (e.g., Love Neighbor vs. Personal Freedom).
- Rights and liberty have been politicized (like race, social vs. individual).
- Concerns:
 - Science (can there be objectivity, facts, and collective truth?).
 - Anti-Intellectualism ("the death of expertise").
 - Anti-Authority (a symptom of "anti-culture" in a third world culture).
- Biblical thinking on COVID requires a careful and intentional balance of (1) common grace, (2) love of neighbor, and (3) political theory (the role of the State and the right of the individual).

Application:

- What should Christians and the church learn from the COVID crisis?