

# Daily View

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13*

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## Please: Put on Your Face Covering

BY DAVID POSEY

I'm typing this article in the state of Florida where, just three days ago, the governor signed an executive order declaring an end to all Covid restrictions. He said, “that’s the evidence-based thing to do.” Apparently, several other states will follow suit within a couple of weeks. This may happen in California sometime next month. We’ll see. But, as of today, *wearing a mask while indoors in a public place is the law in California.*

Personally, I feel I can make a strong argument against the necessity of wearing of face coverings at certain times, even during our assemblies — especially when sitting quietly, listening to the sermon. I preach with my eyes and often adjust what I say based on how I read expressions. That is very difficult to do when all I can see are eyes. I also sympathize with those who get almost claustrophobic while wearing a mask; and we all agree that wearing a mask is uncomfortable. No doubt about it.

We can also debate the effectiveness of masks, quoting studies on both sides of the issue. We can even declare, justifiably, that Covid restrictions have been politicized and feel that the mandate requiring masks is a just another way to exert control over a frightened population... and so on.

But, it is still the law. With some narrow, and important, exceptions, the Bible requires us to obey the law. Consider that the two texts reproduced in the sidebar were written by two apostles living under one of the most oppressive regimes in the history of the world. Yet not once did Peter or Paul suggest that they had a right to disobey the government because they felt it was unfair or was seeking to control them. In fact, it *was* unfair and Rome had every intention of controlling its people. But the apostles were totally silent about that until it hindered their ability to preach the gospel (Acts 4:18-20). [*If, after reading these texts, you have a different view of them, let me know and we’ll talk.*]

Here’s the bottom line, at least as I see it: If Peter, Paul and the rest of the apostles were attending the Folsom church this coming Sunday, they would all be wearing a face covering. And even though it would be impossible for Jesus to get the disease — and therefore impossible to transmit it — I’m convinced he would have a mask on, too. Requiring masks is in no way obstructing the teaching of God’s word or asking us to do something that conflicts with God’s word. And, possibly, a stronger argument could be made that wearing a mask is “going the extra mile” with those who feel strongly that we should wear them (see Matthew 5:41). Yes, it is an inconvenience but we all have to admit that it is a relatively minor one compared to what some of our brothers and sisters in the world have to endure just to meet together.

I’m just thrilled to be able to meet with most of our brethren in one service again. Christie and I were in Massachusetts last week and disappointed that we had to miss the first one-service assembly since March of 2020. But, Lord willing, we’ll be there on Sunday, masks and all.

I know many of the Covid restrictions are annoying, in more ways than one. But — and I hate to bring this up because it convicts me as well — *“Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable...”* (I Corinthians 13:5). Put up with it a little while longer, I think we are beginning to see the light under the mask.

### Romans 13:1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

### I Peter 2:13-17

Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

\*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.

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