HOW FACTS TRUMP FEARS

Pennsylvania is a state of some 13 million people and the confirmed cases in our state for COVID19 are currently at 87,242 with as of today 6,687 deaths. There have been many reports from people across the Commonwealth that these numbers have been inflated by our state governor and his health secretary and if correct the motivation for doing so cannot be good. We do know hospitals stand to benefit financially for a COVID19 diagnosis. But let’s do the math here from the facts: given our current population this means that the chances so far of you as a resident of PA is less than 1 percent of catching the virus (0.67%) and of dying 0.05 !! This of course would increase if you were living in a nursing home since the Governor and his health secretary placed COVID19 patients in those facilities (amongst the most vulnerable of our citizens due to age and weaker immune systems) so that by the end of May even our state’s health department admitted to 4,505 deaths in these facilities. That’s over 2/3 of the deaths in PA for COVID19 !!

While spiking is occurring across the nation what are the facts? We have tested upwards of 30 million in America for the virus. It makes perfect sense that there will be more cases discovered with more testing but the incidences of death and cases to the point of needing hospitalization have dramatically declined in recent weeks ! Citing just the spiking of cases while not reporting the more vital info on how potent these cases are is understandably to be met with some suspicion. Why not just lay out ALL the facts we need?

Current CDC stats show the greatest amount of hospitalizations in mid-April with a steady and significant decline to the present (31,934 had COVID19 to extent requiring admission to a hospital during this “pandemic” and given the reported cases nationwide of just over 2.7 million your chance of requiring hospitalization factually is 1.1% !!). As to deaths, PA showed the greatest amount of deaths in early April and has also declined greatly since then overall. The CDC’s graph for this shows an understandably steady decline with some spikes here and there as graphs normally would. All in all it shows we are weathering the storm well. This alone should be pause for relief.

So the reaction to spikes to now ramp up further restrictions to reduce it is not proportionate to the facts. Precautions are still wise but even great pressure on our citizenry seems over the top and insensitive given when we have all been through thus far. But we now live in a society where facts no longer prevail and are trumped by feelings and the only remedy to reverse this destructive course is a return to truth.

So should I wear a mask? Am I selfish or just plain stubborn if I don’t or am I a “sheeple” if I do following our politicians blindly and being conditioned for more of the same gradually giving up my God given rights? Am I truly impeding a virus and protecting my neighbor as well as myself? Or shouldn’t it be wiser to up the ante and put on an entire hazmat suit? The guidance from the “experts” has been confusing with some saying it actually increases the spread (you touch your face even more wearing a mask) and others it may block some of the virus but never all ! And then what of the impeding of the natural God designed flow of inhaling and exhaling, will this be a precursor to even more respiratory issues later on for our population and overwhelming of the health care system? Good questions in need of facts not knee jerk emotional responses but fact based ones to protect the precious lives of us all. And therein again lies the rub, once we abandon truth for our less than stable emotions we are doomed. Fear and feelings must never be our ultimate guide rather the truth is what will set us free and win the day !

If you choose to wear a mask, fine, that is your right as an American citizen but should you choose not to that is also your right. And while it can show “loving your neighbor” to wear one around those who fear or are more susceptible it can also reveal “hating your brother” to revile and judge his God given freedom to choose to abstain. Those who apply the decades flawed argument of “my body, my choice” to abortion citing it’s my body so mind your own business are in error factually. That baby is an individual life distinct from even his mother though developed inside of her and facts bear this out as that baby grows in the womb ! But when a person chooses to not wear a mask and cites the same slogan it truly and factually applies in this case !! And it is judgmental of the wearer to speak or act with disdain towards the non-wearer. What if the non-wearer has a medical condition, do you have the right to cast a dirty look at them? Do you know for a fact they are “just being obstinate”? And if you take the position that it’s unloving to not wear a mask do you presuppose to know what they know that has led them to not wear a mask ? To judge the intents of their heart and mark them as uncaring? By the way, shouldn’t the same logic be in play with one’s preference in a President? I should still love those who see things differently politically rather than accuse them of hate or a few French fries short of a Happy Meal. You see, you are being played when you fall into the trap of feelings over facts and the only way to discern the ruse is to follow the truth and that is God’s domain not the shifting ideas of men.

If you are afraid if I’m not wearing a mask that you will catch the virus from me then keep a distance away but you have no right to demand I wear a mask any more than I have a right to demand you don’t or to frown upon you for choosing to wear one. Love and a due consideration for your fellow man works both ways, you see, not just one way ! The Bible says God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). God doesn’t want us to be ruled by fear, our lives wracked with this phobia and that. So He has given us truth and facts even concerning a virus to sort out and investigate and make informed and sensible decisions to walk through life. And these will help us to be calm in the midst of any storm we face. Given these gifts of God, I choose to walk not in fear. Facts for me have trumped that !!!