

First Epistle to the People among Corona (1 Corona)

(Första Coronabrevet ; Sussie Kårlin 2020, translation: Albin Kårlin 2020)

Greeting

1. ¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to convey comfort to all those scattered in the rapture through Corona. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ² Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, and carries us through our sufferings.

Call for Intercession

³ I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings, presidents, prime ministers and all who are in high positions. ⁴This is good and pleases God, our Savior. ⁵I urge you, brothers like sisters, to comply and evade division in distant forms of encampment, stand united in prayer and in such guidelines given to you from your communal health jurisdiction. There lies said wisdom who can save lives and form you unsullied from contagion.

The Love of God through Christ Jesus

⁶The message of fear enslaving you has reached me. Such fear who craves dispersion, carnage and diminution of love. ⁷But fear not, considering such fear has no power when this true love is acknowledged. Fear is under the dominion of desolation and is abolished by love. ⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor viruses nor stock market crashes, nor isolation nor liberty, nor propaganda, nor pasta shortage, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ⁹In him, the love of completion has taken its abode and by the means of his death upon the cross, the power of fear vanished.

Seek the Best for your Neighbor

¹⁰Everything is permissible - but not everything is beneficial. ¹¹Everything is permissible, but not all things build up a community. ¹²Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. ¹³Do not cause anyone to stumble by traveling to the mountains amidst easter and do not gather your close ones to celebration neither by virtue of your 68 year old age and nor by the incidence that your gathering wont exceed the limit of 499 guests for supper. ¹⁴I, myself, strive to follow the guidance given to me by authorities and henceforth subordinate myself to such authority and judgement given to us by the Lord, our Father, in these times. ¹⁵Alongside the aid of fluorescent soap and cleansing hand sanitizer all can by these means act as an aroma of Christ to their domain.

The Way of Love

2. ¹Once more, I want to ask of you to stand united, likewise show one another mutual obeisance. ²We, whom are strong and in good health must not think of ourselves, but are by such means obliged to help the weak with their burdens. ³Follow the way of love. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast. ⁴Consider this truth ahead of hoarding toilet paper or aspirin. It is more blessed to give than to receive and God loves a cheerful giver. ⁵For no one is any longer above 70 years of age, nor a student, nor isolated nor liberated, immune nor a carrier of virus. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. For we are all part of the body of Christ. ⁶The High School student cannot say to the restaurant owner: "I don't need you!" nor people of Gotland to people of Stockholm: "We are in no need of you". ⁷If one parts suffers, every part suffers with it. Now, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.

The Complaint of the People

⁹I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the longing which you have carried before. In recent months, some of you struggled with stress and overbooked calendars.⁹ Many then sighed before the Lord and wished the Lord to provide more time for slumber and a day of rest, a holy Sabbath. ¹⁰Along these times, the opportunity has been given to some of you, but you have become saddened and filled with boredom and begun complaining like the people of Israel in the desert, although the Lord provides you with both manna and grace. Likewise these means, you also have access to the chapters of The Lord Jesus Christ's life on Netflix and songs of praise on Youtube. ¹¹No, bear with one another in love and make the most of every opportunity ¹²I also want to emphasize the importance of not slumbering physically, for though godliness is of value in every way, physical training is also of some value.

Rejoice in the Lord

¹³And I say, enjoy the time which have been given to you. ¹⁴Let yourself be fulfilled by The Spirit and speak to each other - on balconies and windows - with psalms, hymns and songs. ¹⁵And rejoice in the Lord always - with timpani and sound, harmonica and Spotify. ¹⁶Once more I say, rejoice in the Lord and thank the Lord for those who are now struggling, not against creatures of flesh and blood – but against time, against viruses and against fake news. ¹⁷Thank the Lord for those and pray for them. Pray without ceasing and devote yourselves to prayer.

The Hope of Resurrection

3. ¹I bring all of you to my prayers, you who in this moment suffers bodily or spiritually. You who cough, snore and witness aches or fever. ²To my brothers and sisters, who have lost a close one, I remind you of the power of God's salvation to everyone who believes, for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We proclaim a Christ who has risen from the dead. ³What I utter to you is a mystery, but the hope of our religion. For as Christ rose from the dead, so shall we be raised with him. That hope does not fail us.

Paul's Hope of Reunion

⁴My thought was to join you, and assist you with encouragement and knowledge during these times, but since the borders have closed and I myself have experienced cold symptoms my stay at home will remain. ⁵I long to see you, but I am assured that it is not my words which primarily strengthen you but those of the Lord: my grace is sufficient for you.

Final Greetings

⁶See now with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. Do not greet one another with a holy kiss any longer. No, relinquishing this is in truth real. ⁷I am even willing to go so far to ask you to limit your peace greeting handshakes at your gatherings. ⁸There will come a time, very soon, when these customs can return to our usage and then we will embrace one another in jubilant joy, but until then we renounce these customs out of love for our brothers. ⁹Greet everyone who is holy, especially those who are burdened with worry or trouble. Grace be with you.