

Gary Vanderet shared these thoughts Sunday morning. We wanted to share his word with those who may have missed it.

I recently was encouraged listening to Paul Taylor share an update with the body at Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, and I thought I would share a similar word to you:

As the shelter in place restrictions begin to ease, many people are asking the question, "When will the church reopen?" But to ask that question is to reveal a misunderstanding of what the church is.

Though the doors of this building are closed, the church is not closed. It is alive and well. The church can't reopen, because the church never closed! It is so critical to understand this. Listen to the apostle Paul's words describing the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

We know this but we have to remind ourselves of this often. *We* are the church. And what does the church do? What has is always done? We worship, we pray, we learn, we love, we forgive, we repent, we confess, we work for God's kingdom. None of those things has stopped. We can still do all of those things, though now in different ways.

Now certainly we have missed gathering together. I have greatly missed being together with you all. And our staff and elders are currently talking and praying through different options for regathering. We will be sharing with you those plans in the coming weeks.

But as we do talk about gathering together again, I don't believe that Jesus would call us to do anything that would make our community and our country less safe for the elderly and vulnerable people in our midst. So let's be patient, and not panic. Pray with us about the correct timing.