

Implementation of Christian Hospitality in Responding to People Exposed to COVID-19 in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

It has been longer than a year since the pandemic caused of corona virus (COVID-19) spread throughout the world, beginning its emergence from Wuhan, China. At the start of its development, many people were overly responsive to this virus. This is a natural response, because the virus spread through the air and human interaction (simply breathing the same air as someone infected from the virus you could contract it), which makes it very easy to infect other people. Therefore, many things are being done by the government to prevent transmission of this virus. In Indonesia itself, this virus is spreading very rapidly. As of April 16, 2021, the death toll due to this virus has reached 43.196 victims. A very large number when compared to the human population in Indonesia. This paper aims to regenerate the sense of empathy of Indonesian citizens as a country known for the hospitality of its citizens, towards people exposed to the corona virus.

Keywords: Compassion, Hospitality, Christianity, COVID-19

Introduction

Corona virus is a virus that belongs to the Coronaviridae class or group. Corona heating is taken from its surface shape which resembles a crown (crown/corona). Corona viruses can generally be found in animals, so it is not surprising that the initial emergence of this virus came from an animal and seafood market in Wuhan City. However, strangely, the Corona virus from Wuhan is a new virus that has never been found in humans, therefore this virus is also called the 2019 Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV. In general, humans can be infected with this virus if they have a history of direct contact with certain animals such as snakes, camels, livestock, cats and bats. The case that occurred in Wuhan is different, because this virus can be transmitted from human to human.

The Corona Virus Disease pandemic or commonly known as COVID-19, when it first appeared, not only panicked Chinese citizens, its presence caused unrest throughout the world. Until finally, in mid-March 2020 this virus entered Indonesia and panicked all Indonesian people. The work and study from home system, which was initially only valid for 2 weeks, was the first step implemented by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, as time goes by, this work

and school from home system is still in effect to this day, even though there are several companies, agencies and schools that no longer implement it, but still comply with the health protocols implemented by the government.

The health protocols implemented by the government are solely to break the chain of spread of COVID-19 itself, considering that transmission is so easy. However, it cannot be denied that the spread of this virus cannot be completely prevented, but by following several government recommendations, at least the spread will not be so serious. The government implements 3M (staying away from crowds, wearing masks and staying away from crowds) for the public to comply with. At first, people thought that this rule was something that had to be followed to avoid transmission of this virus, but the real goal is to increase public awareness that this rule is not just an obligation but is also a necessity for those of us who live in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Thus, it is very important to continue to follow health protocols. Without us realizing it, by following health protocols we are not only trying to protect ourselves, but also protecting others. However, in reality, there are still many people who do not pay attention to this rule. There are still a handful of people who do not comply with the rules made by this government. Instead

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of locking themselves up at home and avoiding crowds, they instead gather in cafes and don't care about the existence of this virus which is increasingly rampant. Self-awareness of the existence of this virus is the main key to preventing its spread.

These are the things that are causing the increasing number of people exposed to COVID-19 in Indonesia. Because in reality, there are people who don't look sick at all but are actually infected with the corona virus, this group is called a carrier. There is also the term silent carrier, namely those who are actually ODVC but do not realize that they are infected with the corona virus. What is dangerous is that if a silent carrier meets the people closest to him and then has direct contact with them, there is a very high possibility of contracting this virus. Because according to the data, a silent carrier on a small scale can transmit the virus to 2-3 people, but in certain cases they can become a super spreader - which can transmit the virus to 11-37 people. Therefore, to continue to prevent the spread of this virus, as good citizens you must comply with all government regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because without knowing it, people who are healthy and without symptoms could become silent carriers and could harm other people, even their closest family.

Until now, there is still a lot of negative stigmata floating around out there about people who have been exposed to the corona virus. People infected with the corona virus are often shunned. Without us realizing it, behaving in this way will make those who are infected feel ostracized, of course they will lack the enthusiasm to fight the virus that is attacking their bodies. That is why it is important to know about COVID-19 and have a high sense of empathy towards them. Indonesian citizens who are known for their hospitality, now this social attitude is starting to wane. Maybe it's also because the implementation of social distancing has made Indonesian people less social with their surroundings.

The implementation of government recommendations should not make Indonesian people lose their identity as citizens full of hospitality. Rather, this provides a lesson for entering a new era where we have to get used to living in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which means that with this pandemic, there will also be people infected with this virus. Then the task that must be done is how to respond to those who are exposed to COVID-19 and treat them like other healthy people, instead of avoiding them because of the virus that is in them. Thus, indirectly accepting their situation will make them enthusiastic to fight the virus that is eating away at them. Of course, as Christians, who are full of the doctrine of love, it is necessary to respond to the concerns of COVID-19 sufferers by expressing concern through empathy for them. The expression of love that has become the identity of Christians must be realized in any circumstances. Especially in a very critical time like this. Christians who are also disciples must be able to express that love in times like this.

Implementing acts of love during a pandemic like now is a study that must be studied more deeply so that it can be implemented in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The problem formulation in this research is: How to implement love as a form of Christian hospitality in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The aim of this research is to invite readers to realize compassion again as a form of implementing Christian hospitality in the

midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefit of this research is to regenerate a sense of empathy which is realized through the application of compassion in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This can restore the face of Indonesia which is known for its hospitality.

Discussion

Humans are social creatures who cannot survive without interaction with other humans around them. However, with the pandemic caused by COVID-19, people's social life seems to be limited. This was done to reduce the spread of the virus that is currently sweeping the world. However, unfortunately, there are still many negative stigmas floating around outside towards COVID-19 victims, they are shunned and ostracized. Conditions like this are very sad, because those who are exposed to COVID-19 could be considered enemies even though the real enemy that must be avoided is the virus itself.

Hospitality to foreigners, or better known as "hospitality", has its own challenges in this new era. Because by trying to be friendly with strangers you don't know, it could backfire on you. Thus, how can hospitality towards other people be carried out, especially during this pandemic? Will hospitality lose its value in this new era? Or are there other alternatives that can be used to implement hospitality during this pandemic?

Compassion as a Form of Implementing Christian Hospitality in the Midst of a Pandemic. Hospitality or the activity of welcoming strangers with hospitality is an action that must be carried out by Christians who base their lives on the doctrine of love that Jesus taught. Taking the example of the story of a Samaritan who met a stranger on his way and was seriously injured, in this case he still took the time to help the person, even though he could have continued his journey and left the person behind. That is a form of compassion that Christians should exercise. Regardless of the situation and circumstances that occur, but still want to help others. He is willing to give himself the trouble and stay for a moment to help that person. This story is an illustration that compassion makes people moved to help others. There is a sense of empathy that moves him to help people in any situation.

Love is the main foundation in realizing hospitality. Without compassion, there will be no sense of concern and empathy for other people around us. From the story of the Samaritan, there is also a host who is willing to accept without thinking about the reward. That is the implementation of hospitality that Christians must do. Loving and welcoming strangers with warmth under any circumstances must also be realized in the midst of the current pandemic. There is a lot of selfishness that appears in today's society. They only think about themselves to be free from the virus, without thinking about the victims of this pandemic. Those who have been fighting against a virus that is eroding their immune system are presented with a new problem, namely the problem of rejection in society, which of course can have a negative impact on their psychology.

However, to achieve this, it is essential to adhere to the health protocols established by the government to prevent further spread of the virus. This pandemic should not be used as an excuse to be unfriendly to others, thereby diminishing the value of hospitality. The love that underlies hospitality can make people more sensitive to the lives around them and more concerned about what is happening. A good understanding of this virus is

also necessary to prevent the spread of negative stigma. Instead, with this knowledge, people can re-establish hospitality toward others, especially those infected with the coronavirus.

The Digital World as a Medium for Realizing Hospitality

The current challenge is how to practice hospitality amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct hospitality can still be practiced, but with adherence to health protocols. However, this approach can backfire and even harm others. Taking appropriate action is essential to maintain hospitality amidst this critical situation. Rapid technological developments can be an advantage, providing a means for maintaining interaction with others. The Industrial Revolution 4.0 has brought so many conveniences in various ways. Remember when the coronavirus first hit in mid-March 2020, all activities involving direct social interaction were temporarily suspended. This is where the use of technology began, from online schooling and work to online worship. Religious buildings once considered sacred were transformed into empty, seemingly meaningless structures. Many religious institutions have yet to accept this decision, but it's all done for the common good.

The rapid development of technology has resulted in numerous social media platforms that can be utilized to spread love amidst the current pandemic. As previously stated, isolating victims of COVID-19 has left them psychologically devastated. During quarantine, they need encouragement and a support system to help them fight the virus that is destroying their immune systems. Now is the time to...

Using social media as a tool to promote hospitality amidst the current situation.

Conclusion

Coronavirus Disease, or COVID-19 for short, is a global pandemic currently facing all communities worldwide. Many efforts have been made to prevent its spread, given the virus's devastating toll. Efforts have been made to develop a vaccine for this virus, ensuring its universal acceptance. However, in Indonesia, this vaccine has not yet been universally accepted. The presence of this virus has brought significant changes to Indonesia. Indonesia, renowned for its hospitable people, has suddenly transformed into a selfish and indifferent nation. This is due to a misunderstanding of the virus's existence. While this highly dangerous virus should be avoided, the reality is that people are shunning those infected. Hospitality is fading, and empathy is diminishing [1-4].

Hospitality, the act of welcoming strangers under any circumstances, is difficult to implement during this pandemic. Therefore, it is necessary to find ways to implement hospitality in this critical situation. "Love," the foundation of Christian teachings, can be a solution to this problem. Compassion arises from empathy for the plight of others. Therefore, as Christians living in a world filled with turmoil due to this pandemic, we should be able to set an example by continuing to practice hospitality by embodying love.

Social media, as its name suggests, can be a platform for practicing social life, especially in hospitality. "Spread love through your gadget" can serve as a motto to continue taking positive actions to encourage victims. This will prevent them from only experiencing hate speech and isolation during quarantine, but also allow those exposed to the virus to feel the warmth of acceptance even while they are infected [5-7]

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