

The Bulwark

AUGUST 24, 2025

EREMITISM

According to the Mayo Clinic, there can be lingering effects for some who were infected with Covid-19. The long term impact on the body is evident. Some of the symptoms include extreme tiredness, “brain fog” dizziness, digestion, breathing issues as well as a host of other health concerns dealing with the heart. Then of course there is also the emotional aspect of long Covid. In short, Covid hammered the body physically and mentally of millions worldwide.



But what is so striking is Covid brought about something, that on an individual level is so devastating for those thus afflicted. Out of fear countless people have slipped into a state of quasi-eremitism. Eremitism is defined as a lifestyle or practice of seclusion from society. More often than not the seclusion is for religious purposes, but in the case of Covid seclusion it has transcended.

As noted earlier, Covid can have a lasting impact on the body. Now apply that principle in a spiritual sense to the body of Christ, His

church. *“From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”* (Ephesians 4:16) Congregations of the Lord’s people have been greatly impacted by those in the body who willingly pull themselves away, into seclusion as a result of Covid and the fear that was spread concerning it. Spiritual eremitism. Let us not put all the blame on Covid.

Rather than attend in person, individuals are seeking out alternatives. But there is no viable alternative; we need one another. *“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:25) Note what is found in Acts 2:42, *“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”* All of which is next to impossible to do in insolation.

“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” (Romans 12:4-5) Our physical body doesn’t function properly when a part of the body is missing. The same holds true for the body of Christ; the church. We come together to form a common union. A community. The 12th chapter of 1Corinthians is a celebration extolling the import of each part of the body. Always hold in your mind, you are a valued member of the body. You are needed. (wbe)

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