

Its Tough not to Have Contact

Churches all across the world practice physical contact as a way of being social and showing how you feel about someone. Normally, you don't find many people who don't hug, shake hands or pat someone on the back. In football, the chest bump is a physical sign of sharing your joy due to a positive performance. In the 1980's we began slapping hands and saying, "Give me five!". People in the 1990's began fist bumping.

Physical connections have been practiced for centuries. During Jesus' time on earth and afterward, people greeted each other with a holy kiss. 2 Corinthians 13:11 – 12 states, **11** Finally, brothers, rejoice! Aim for perfect harmony, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. **12** Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Romans 16:16 also says, ¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss.

All the churches of Christ send greetings.

Today, we need to be ever mindful of the health of our friends, brothers and sisters, the elderly, those who are ill or those with a weak immune system. This means that some people can get sick easier than others. We need to consider social distancing, frequent hand washing, cover our coughs, stay home when we are sick and trying not to touch our faces. These are signs of respect toward others and their health. Yes, we would like to offer hugs and kisses, but out of respect, we need to be loving in a different way, for right now.

Question Time:

1. Do you like to hug members of your family?
2. Do you think you can stop hugging your family members?
3. Can you follow the safety steps at church?

Scripture: Romans 16:16 and 2 Corinthians 13: 11-12.

Next Steps: Take a scotch tape dispenser and tear off a small piece. Roll it up so that it is sticky all the way around. Put ten of these pieces on all eight of your fingers and your two thumbs. Mom or dad can put the final pieces on your digits. Then see how long you can go with out touching your face. Have mom or dad start the timer on the stove or set a timer on their watch.

