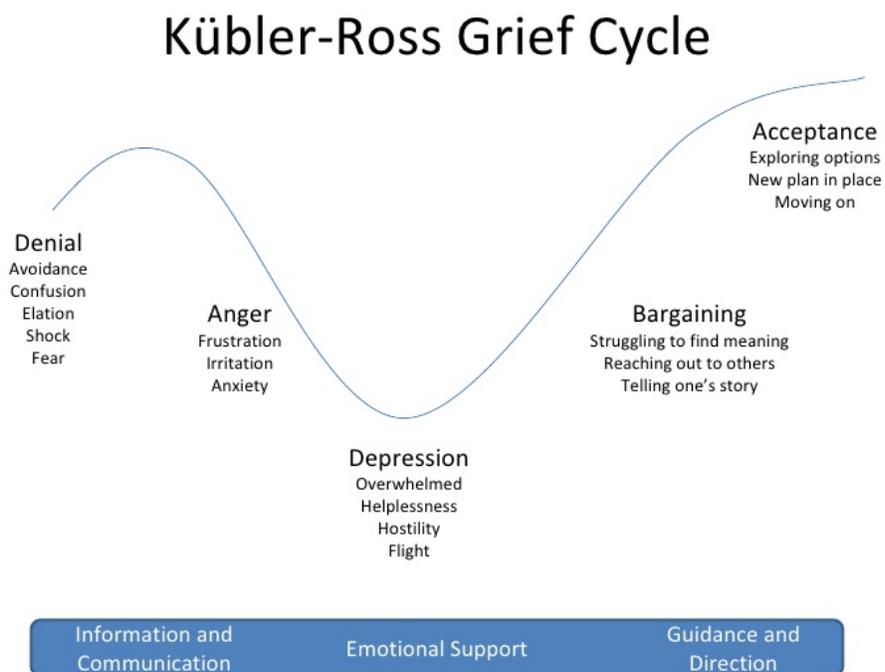


A note from the elders – April 15th, 2020

Hello everyone – this is Jon, writing on behalf of the elder team.

As the stay at home order continues, there is a growing general agitation among us. I'm feeling it myself. For some, it's an agitation that perhaps we're being duped. For others, it's an agitation from wanting to do something, but seeing there is very little we can physically do about the situation, except stay separated. For still others, it's an agitation that results from the being separated and disconnected. Personally, I don't sit pining to be back together the way some do, but I have realized that, even as an introvert, being separated from others causes me to act grumpy.

Another way of thinking about it is in the diagram below - moving through the stages of grief:



People are all over the place on this cycle. What this demonstrates to us and what we want to communicate to you today is this - it's normal that you feel whichever of the emotions you see listed above. We encourage you, however, to resist the urge to make any life-altering decisions based on those feelings. For those who need it stated more bluntly - please don't do anything incredibly stupid. Or as Paul writes to the Ephesians in chapter 4 - "Be angry, but do not sin". Our desire in saying this is to openly acknowledge where we are.

In the interest of accepting that we face some sort of new normal even as the stay at home order is hopefully lifted soon, we want you to know that we have already begun investigating what it will look like for us to meet together in person again. We don't have details worked out yet, but we do know that it will likely **not** look like it did in early March.

In the meantime, thank you for the way you are caring for each other in the form of phone calls, video calls, texts, and Facebook messages. Keep up the good work!

We love you all!