

EDITORIAL

Dear reader,

“To give is more blessed than to receive” – these words from the New Testament just about sum up the most important things that can be said on this subject. However, in a survey conducted by the Bertelsmann Stiftung in February of this year, 41 percent of respondents agreed with the statement “People do not care about their fellow human beings.” Then the coronavirus came along and changed everything. A wave of helpfulness has now swept the country. Neighbors have been helping neighbors, shopping services have been set up for elderly people, and regular customers have been collecting money for small stores and cafés that had to close during the lock-down. Another survey conducted in June showed that only 21 percent of respondents still believed that people do not care about their fellow human beings.

However, it is also clear that the coronavirus is deepening the social divide: people who were already disadvantaged have been hit particularly hard by the lock-down and its economic effects. This is intensifying the social inequality that had already been growing in our country for some time – a subject that we examine in greater depth in the “Focus” section of this magazine.

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The coronavirus crisis has also brought about astonishing changes in the relationship between the government and the economy. Over the last few decades, political leaders and their policies have disengaged from economic activities and public duties and services have been privatized. This trend now shows signs of reversing – and not only in the field of crisis management.

Covid-19 can affect anyone, but the course it takes varies widely. This has focused attention on our immune system. The immune system is also regulated by a certain give and take, a balance between the body’s ability to defend itself and the undesirable effect of the body attacking itself and developing autoimmune diseases.

On that note: stay healthy, and use your time for some exciting reading!

Your editorial team