

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Why Church is So Hard - Eph. 6:10-22

Pastor John Mahaffey

Sunday, June 25, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. Paul begins this concluding section of Ephesians by telling us to “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” What has Paul already told us about power in this letter? (See 1:18-21; 3:16-21).
2. What do these verses reveal about the nature of the enemy we face? What descriptive words are used that give us a picture of their true nature and character?
3. What do you think are “the devil’s schemes”? (vs. 11 and 2:2; 4:27) What does he not want to see in the church?
4. Pastor John warned that the enemy attacks when important decisions are about to be made. Share examples of how you may have experienced this in your own life or in those around you?
5. As you consider the attacks from the spiritual realm, what are the main areas or categories of temptation that are directed towards us? How might your answers compare with Satan’s dealings with Christ in Matthew 4:1-11 and 1 John 2:15-16?
6. Make a list of the various pieces of armor that we are called to put on. What is the meaning behind each piece? What specifically does each piece do? Read also Isaiah 11:4-5; 52:7; 59:17 and make a list of all the armor mentioned in these verses. To whom does it belong and how is it employed? What pieces of your armor might need some maintenance or repair?
7. When it comes down to the very bottom line, what kinds of things can’t we blame on Satan or the forces of evil ruling this earth?

8. What are the specific commands to us in this passage? Note how often they are repeated. What does this imply about our part in this war?

9. Note the place of prayer in verses 18-20. What does it mean to pray in the Spirit? For whom should we pray and how should we pray?

10. Pastor John lamented that “we have to pull teeth to get people together to engage in prayer” . What is your reaction to this concern and how as a church should we be responding?

11. Pastor John actually mentioned one great deficiency in our church – that is the area of corporate prayer. As Pastor John quoted Samuel Chadwick in saying “Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.” Please discuss how you might make Satan tremble?

12. Following the passage in 1 John 2:15-16, how would the apocalyptic Christians in Revelations 12:11 demonstrate that they love Christ more than the world and how do we personally compare to this attitude?

13. You may have heard it said that Christians try “not to sin” everyday; what kinds of pressure does that produce? Consider Philippians 4: 8 – 9, how might this strategy be more helpful, if at all?

14. The Navigator Organization has used the wheel illustration to show the basic disciplines required with Christ as the hub or centre of one’s life, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Please look at this example from the Navigators and discuss which of the 4 main spokes do you need to exercise more discipline in?

