

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

MISSION REFOCUS

Our Apostolic Ministry – Colossians 1:24-29

Pastor John Mahaffey

Sunday September 11, 2016

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

1. Pastor John said that Apostolic Ministry is a “stewardship” and followed up by saying that we are servants of the gospel and we are servants of the church. Define what stewardship means? Consider I Corinthians 4: 1 – 5;
2. Describe the link that exists between the Gospel and the Church.
3. Pastor John warned against those who preach a partial Gospel. Where might you encounter this? How do you discern when this is happening? How do you respond to these situations?
4. Part of our church motto is based on verse 28 (*Making the People of God Fully Mature*). Talk about the difference between child-like faith and childishness. Look at Matthew 18:2-4 and consider how we can demonstrate childlike faith while still growing and maturing in our faith.
5. How should Christ-centredness be exhibited in your life?
6. Pastor John noted that Jesus came for ALL peoples, just not the Jews. Cite some examples of this in Christ's ministry on earth. Are we/you different from those first Christians who did not understand this key aspect of Christ's coming to earth? Are there certain groups of people that you don't think can ever be reached with the Gospel?
7. One of the points in this week's message was that the gospel reconciles us, not only to God, but to each other. How does our reconciliation to God make it possible for us to become closer to each other? Does this passage bring anyone to mind in terms of reconciliation?

8. We as the Church have a responsibility to participate in the many aspects of the work of the church. How have you been engaged in the past year? Take some time to consider the gifts that you have been blessed with and how you might become more involved in the church in the coming year.

9. Have you ever really suffered for Christ/the Gospel?

10. It was mentioned that the Christian church in Iran is one of the world's fastest growing churches and yet the country is well known for its severe religious persecution. Pastor John noted that an Apostolic Ministry is marked by a readiness to suffer or to go through persecution. Why is it that the Church of Christ can actually grow while under persecution? Read Philippians 1:29, John 15:20 and II Timothy 3:12. Consider the statement "If you are not experiencing suffering or persecution, then you are not striving to live a Godly life in obedience to Jesus Christ." Is this true, partly true, partly false or completely false? If you're still not sure, have a read of II Corinthians 11:23-33.

11. Can you share times when Christ has powerfully worked in/through you?

12. Re-read Col. 1: 29 to consider how we are to 'strive' in our Apostolic Ministry (described in Question 1, above), individually and in the church. Who's energy and power does it require? Be encouraged by reading James 1: 2 – 4, 12.