

Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday January 2nd

Ice-breaker: Can you think of a New Year's resolution you've made – and kept?

Was there anything that particularly spoke to you in the sermon this Sunday? Or that you disagreed with?

A. Intro and Summary:

This Sunday we considered what the Bible calls the church to in the coming year:

1. To glorify God
2. To proclaim the gospel
3. To make disciples.

Question: Do you think that adequately sums up the church's ministry or would you add something else?

[You might consider: Micah 6:8; Acts 2:42-47; James 1:27; and whether the concepts mentioned here are included in the 3 areas mentioned above].

B. To glorify God:

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10:

Question: What do you think it means to 'proclaim the excellencies of God'? How can a church do that?

Read 1 Cor 10:31:

Question: How can a church (not just individuals) cultivate an attitude of mind that it does everything to God's glory?

Question: Thinking negatively, what sorts of things can churches do that detract from God's glory ?

C. To proclaim the gospel:

Read Eph 3:7-12:

Question: What's the gospel – how would you summarize it?

Question: Is there anything about the gospel that you struggle with at the moment? Or that encourages you?

D. To make disciples:

Read Matthew 28:18-20:

Question: how would you define 'a disciple'?

Question: here's a quote: 'a convert changes his mind, but a disciple changes his life.' Do you think that's true?

Question: What's the aim of being a disciple and how can one grow as a disciple? What hinders that growth? How can the church help us grow as disciples?

We also considered the things that hinder us being a part of what God calls the church to:

1. Personal sin and the guilt which follows
2. Getting the gospel wrong
3. Treasuring something else above Christ.

E. Personal Sin and the guilt which follows:

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

Question: where does our sense of guilt come from? Why is it both helpful and unhelpful? How should we deal with guilt, according to the Bible?