

December 8 Discussion Questions - Church

Ephesians 3:8-10; 4:1-13

Review

The Church has one Compelling Purpose:

- To Glorify God (3:10)
- It is not about Me (3:21)

Believers have a Clear Pathway to follow:

1. **Love** God passionately by Delighting in His perfect love (3:18-19)
2. **Grow** in Maturity by loving His imperfect people (4:1-5,12-13,32; 2:10)
3. **Serve** sacrificially by using your Gifts in the body (4:8,15-16; 5:21)
4. **Reach** out Boldly with good news and good deeds (3:8-9; 6:19-20; 2:10)

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which he prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Eph. 2:10

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work in us.” Eph. 3:20

Connect

1. Suppose you were moving to a new city. What do you most look for when considering a new church home?
2. Why do you like Oakwood Church? How do you see God at work here?

Read Ephesians 3:8-10; 4:1-13

Discuss

3. What is the one compelling purpose of the church? Elaborate on what this means and what it looks like.
4. What are the four pathways believers have for growing into Christlikeness? (see “Review” above) Do you think these are meant to happen sequentially or not?
5. What does it mean to be “filled with all the fullness of God?” (see Eph 3:19) What would Oakwood look like if everyone lived in this fullness?
6. How is our identity in Christ tied to the way we love one another?

Apply

7. We are inclined by our selfishness to push God out of the spotlight. Why do we do this? What part of your life do you prioritize and tend to put at the center stage? (i.e. family, career, comforts, pleasures, etc)
8. How does your community group express the purpose of the church? Give some tangible examples of things your group has done for one another and the community. How can you keep moving and growing in this?
9. How is it that we are able to "bear with one another and forgive each other? What strained or challenging relationships do you need to exude the love and grace of God in? What does that look like for you?
10. Share one spiritual gift you think you possess from the Lord. How have you used this in the church? How could you use it in the future?
11. What is a way our church can work together to more clearly portray the love of God more clearly during the Christmas season?

Pray

12. Pray for God's special blessing on our church - our pastors and leaders, our relationships, our partnership in the gospel, our outreach, etc.