

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sacred Practices: Church

Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Timothy 3:14-15

August 24 & 25, 2019

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon and take note of its truths about God, who we are as his people and what's required to follow him.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Ray began the sermon series last week by talking about our need to push back as hard against the culture that pushes against us. Where are some areas that you feel the culture pressing against you and others?
2. There are two lies that Ray discussed this weekend - "Life is an individual journey" and "Find Your Own Truth." Where do you see these present in our culture and perhaps even in your life?

Sacred Practices: The Priority of the Church. (Your Love; Your Family; Your Co-Laborers)

1. Ray made an important clarification this weekend about what the church is - it's not the building or the worship service - it's the people. Why is that important to remember?
2. Is the church the center/love of your life? Ray said that the church should not be one ball that you juggle in your life and weekly schedule, it should be your core. Is that true of you?
3. The family of the church is bound to one another. What does it mean to be bound? What does it mean to be "all in for each other?"
4. What are ways you've experienced the beauty of family in the church?
5. Being co-laborers means that we love and support each other as fellow believers - even when it's someone we find difficult to care about. Can you think of someone (without naming names) that is challenging for you to love? Make it a part of your prayer with your group to ask God to change your heart in this way.

Sacred Practices: Attend Weekly Worship.

1. To faithfully attend weekly worship we must build a habit and culture of attendance. Discuss more what this means

2. In the effort to attend weekly worship, Ray said we must push back against the various forms of leisure. Where is this true in your life?

3. How does Jesus looking at you as a groom looks at his bride change the way we view church and the importance of weekly attendance?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?