

Chapter 6: Questions for Group Discussion

Opening Question: Did you grow up as a member of a church? If you did, was your family an “Easter and Christmas” type of family, a “we are there every time the doors were open” type of family, or somewhere in between?

- 1) Why do we often think of faith as personal and private?
- 2) Which of the four types of identity theft discussed in the chapter is most common in your community or perhaps in your own life?
- 3) Read Acts 2:42-47
 - a. What various aspects of life in the early church are described in the passage?
 - b. How is this description similar to or different from the church you attend?
- 4) How have you experienced the blessing of being part of a church? Why at times can it also be difficult to be a member of a church?
- 5) Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-16 and Romans 12:3-13
 - a. What do both passages teach about the body of Christ?
 - b. In what ways does being a part of the church allow us to both experience and express the love of Christ?
 - c. Have you ever felt unneeded in the church or that your service isn't important? What truths from 1 Corinthians 12 can help you fight against that false belief?
 - d. What are the variety of ways Romans 12:3-13 shows us we can serve in the church?
 - e. According to this passage, in what ways is humility required of each member of the church?
- 6) Why is prayer such an important part of life together in the church? Consider the letters of Paul. We often hear of his prayers for the church. How does prayer build up the church?
- 7) Read Ephesians 4:11-16
 - a. What is the role of shepherds and teachers in the church?
 - b. Why are we likely to be carried away by false teaching if we aren't connected to a local church?
 - c. What happens if one part of your physical body isn't working properly? How does that affect the rest of your body? How do you think this principle applies in the life of the church?
- 8) The chapter discussed four ways we can live out our identity in the church. In which of these ways do you want to grow in your participation in the life of the church?
- 9) As you think back over the chapter, what truth resonated with you? How will you live differently considering that new understanding?