



Week of January 5, 2020: An “Ephesians” Prayer

Discussion Questions Set #1

In sermon, we discussed the idea that the book of Ephesians brings to light three themes summed up in the following three words: belong, together and forever.

1. I shared an experience in my life where the themes of belonging, togetherness and forever melded in a unique way. Can you think of similar experiences in your life that might help you apply these same themes? Share.
2. Without an entire series of information to draw upon, discuss what you think/expect to be the importance of each theme. What thoughts/ideas do these words inspire in you? How have you seen these themes influence your own following of Jesus?
 - A. Belong
 - B. Together
 - C. Forever

Discussion Questions Set #2

In sermon, we discussed two different types of prayer that we can pray – priestly prayer and kingly prayer. By definition, priestly prayers are usually needs based prayers of petition or supplication and can include prayers of intercession - prayers prayed on behalf of another. Kingly prayers are prayers of declaration and invocation firmly rooted in His Word that invite God to act in certain ways. They are declarative in that they communicate fact; faith-filled certainty around what God will accomplish for and through His people.

1. In sermon, we discussed how Jesus came to fulfill both a priestly and a kingly function. The Apostle Peter calls the people of God, the church, a “royal priesthood” in 1 Peter 2:9 helping us to realize that He has given to us both kingly authority and priestly responsibility. Which function are you more comfortable with – priestly functions or kingly functions? Can you think of some priestly functions of the church in 2020? What are some possible kingly functions in 2020?
2. Of these two types of prayers – priestly or kingly - which are you most familiar or comfortable with? Discuss.
3. What might occur if we fail to pray priestly prayers?
4. What might occur if we fail to pray kingly prayers?

Discussion Questions Set #3

1. In sermon, we discussed a bold prayer for Hillside in 2020 that involved three specific results/expectations. Discuss each in turn, thinking about what changes this might entail and how we might evaluate whether this has occurred or not. What kinds of things ought each result/expectation require of us individually or corporately?
 - A. 2020 will be a year in which we will discern more clearly what it means to belong to Christ and doing so will help shape our attitudes about and practices in extending the good news of Jesus to those yet to accept it.
 - B. 2020 will be a year in which we see the practice and experience of Christ’s love in community in a way we’ve only just sampled in the past. God will reveal to us how best we ought to love one another, so that this love rooted in Christ might serve as witness to the truthfulness of the gospel to those yet to follow Jesus.
 - C. 2020 will be a year in which God reveals to us “eternal realities” in fuller measure, helping us to live better in the here and now.
2. In sermon, we learned that in pursuing an acknowledged priestly-kingly function, Moses did not operate alone, but called others to join him in his task. Their joined strength accomplished great things; things which would have been impossible for Moses on his own. Why do you think God encourages partnership in ministry and how might you best as an H2H group partner with others in seeing this Ephesians 3:14-21 prayer become a reality in 2020?