

TALKING POINTS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 2020 - Q AND A

LEANING IN

This study is on Questions and Answers, with the questions provided by the congregation via texting.

LIVING IT OUT

What have you discovered through the pandemic which has been a blessing to you?

First, the idea of letting God be God and responding to whatever is in front of you. This has been an opportunity to really trust God – one day at a time, one step at a time. This has also been an opportunity to reach out to and pray for those who are hurting and isolated through all these events. See *Proverbs 3:5-6*

How can God be good and allow things like COVID to happen?

Because this world is broken, broken things like diseases occur, but God is still present and desires us to CHOOSE to reach out to Him for comfort and guidance in the most difficult of times. He promises to give us this comfort if we'll seek Him. See *Psalms 9:9, 22:24, 34:17-18, 46:1*

Why don't we talk about politics in church?

Above all, our mission as a church is to introduce and win people to Jesus Christ. When you take a political stand as a church, you've just eliminated half of your community whom you could reach for Christ. Ultimately, we believe the kingdom of God supersedes all other kingdoms and this is our focus. See *Matthew 6:33, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Philippians 3:20*

If a couple lives in a committed, monogamous fashion but haven't married, does God really care?

He does. God tells us *He designed* the marriage relationship as a covenant relationship – it reflects the relationship God has with His bride, the church (us) and reflects His unending commitment to us as members of His church. It is a spiritual union before God which He intended for us to enter, not just a legal contract. See *Genesis 2:18-24, Ephesians 5:25-33*

Is evil greater today than in the past, or has it always been this way?

It's always been this way - from the time of man's rebellion against God, evil has always been present. The bible does say men's hearts will be even more hardened at the end of the age, but we don't know when that is. See *Romans 3:9-18, 23*

How many of all the people who have ever lived will go to heaven?

It's impossible for any of us here on earth to know the answer. Only God knows. What matters most is where our focus should be – placing your faith in the work of Jesus and seeking God in your words and actions. See *Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Peter 3:9*

What are some practical things we can do to overcome fear?

One of the best antidotes to fear is relationships – relationship with God, and with others. We're called to do it in the bible, and it is what's best for us, especially in difficult times. See *Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 10:25, 1 John 4:18-19*

What do you mean by the words "Kingdom Minded"?

The "kingdom of God" represents the rule of Christ on the planet, which began when Jesus came to earth. He continues to rule here in a spiritually way and we are to seek His Kingdom, His rule today. See *Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 6:33*