**DISCUSSION STARTER:**



## Discipleship Groups

Sermon Dates:

**May 6 & 7, 2023**

**Butch Gastfield**

Scripture Text

***Various***

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When you were a high school or college student, did you like the subject of history? Why or why not? As you grew older, did you develop an interest in your family history or the history of your community? What was the appeal of that?

*Sermon Point 1: The unity of Christ’s Church is an essential doctrine.*

**QUESTIONS:**

*Read John 17:20-23*

* When we are unified as a Body, where does *vs. 20* say we are positioned?
* What do *vs. 21* & *23* state is Jesus’ purpose for our display of unity?

*Read Ephesians 4:1-6*

* How do the qualities described in *vs. 2* contribute to the unity outlined in the following verses?
* What is the “glue” that binds as together?

**DISCUSSION:**

* To what degree do you feel Fairway CC reflects this sort of spirit? Can you identify any areas where improvement might be needed? How do we grow even more unified?

*Sermon Point 2: The church of the first century was established in accordance with the will of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ*

**QUESTIONS:**

*Read Matthew 16:13-18*

* In what ways does this passage verify Butch’s sermon point?
* What does this passage present as the foundational principle on which the church is established?

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:**

In our current culture, the Church of Jesus often appears to be threatened. What does this passage say about its future? How are we to move forward, given Jesus’ prophetic statement about His church? This might be a good time to offer a prayer of affirmation to this essential truth.

*Sermon Point 3: The Apostles spoke with the authority of Jesus Christ on matters of doctrine and practice.*



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**QUESTIONS:**

*Read Ephesians 2:19-22*

* What metaphor does Paul use here for the Lord’s Church?
* Where does He position Jesus?
* With whom are the Apostles equated?

*Read Ephesians 4:11-14*

* Who is the “he” referenced here?
* What is the ultimate aim and purpose of the various designated positions?

*Read Matthew 28:18-20*

* In what ways does this commission reinforce the sermon point?

*Sermon Point 4: The New Testament Church, as established by the Apostles of Christ, is the divine standard after which all churches for all time should pattern themselves.*

**DISCUSSION:**

*Read Acts 6:1-6; 14:21-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-14*

* While these passages indicate some prescriptions for church leadership, they also imply some purposes behind the designation. What are some of these you can identify that contribute to the health of the Church and furtherance of the Gospel?

*Sermon Point 5: Man has no authority to change, modify, add to, or disregard what Christ and His Apostles instituted and established.*

**DISCUSSION:**

*Read Matthew 7:21-27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21*

* Go through these verses carefully and highlight any word or phrase that offers a sense of trust or confidence in the established Word of God.

*Read Acts 20:28-30; Jude 3-4*

* What are some ways we can safeguard our church from being susceptible to the dangers posed in these verses?

**REFLECTION:**

* Take a moment to thank God for the faith delivered and maintained for us by so many godly servants throughout our journey of faith!