

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide
Tough Questions – Week Three
Teaching by Pastor Ken

WARM-UP QUESTION

- If you could ask God one difficult question and receive a clear answer today, what would you ask?
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DISCUSS

1. Why Are There So Many Different Denominations?

Pastor Ken explained that many church differences often come down to three areas: theology, church governance, and style. Some disagreements involve the interpretation of Scripture. Others involve leadership structure. Still others involve preferences like music, dress, or teaching style.

Even with differences, the mission remains the same: helping people know and follow Jesus. Pastor Ken shared the story of a man who chose mission over preference because he wanted the next generation to come to Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20

- Why do you think Christians sometimes divide over preferences instead of mission?
 - How can believers hold convictions while still showing unity?
 - Where have you seen people choose mission over personal preference?
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2. How Can a Growing Church Care for Both New People and Current People?

Pastor Ken pointed to the early church. When thousands came to faith, they did not rely only on large gatherings. They also met in smaller settings for fellowship, prayer, teaching, and care.

Growth creates opportunities, but it also requires intentional systems of discipleship and connection. Care often happens best in circles, not just rows.

Acts 2:40-42

Exodus 18:13-22

- Why do you think smaller groups are so important for spiritual growth and care?
 - How have relationships helped you grow more than simply attending a service?
 - What step could you take to become more connected in Christian community?
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3. Personal Preference vs. Biblical Mandate

Pastor Ken addressed questions like cremation and reminded us that not every issue carries the same weight. Some matters are clearly addressed in Scripture. Others fall into areas of conscience and personal preference.

Where Scripture draws a clear line, believers should honor it. Where Scripture does not, humility and grace are needed.

Romans 14:1-3

- Why is it important to know the difference between essential beliefs and personal preferences?
 - How can Christians disagree on secondary matters without division?
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4. How Do I Hear God's Voice?

Pastor Ken taught that God often speaks through His Word, prayer, wise counsel, Christian community, and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Discernment grows through consistent habits and spiritual maturity.

Sometimes the better questions are not simply "Is this allowed?" but "Is this loving?" and "Is this wise?" Pastor Ken also encouraged anyone who wants to explore this topic further to check out a previous teaching series called *Loud and Clear*, which dives deeper into how God speaks to us.

- Which way of hearing from God do you tend to overlook most often?
 - Why do you think community helps us discern more clearly?
 - What decision in your life needs prayer, wisdom, and next steps right now?
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5. Are We Living in the End Times?

Pastor Ken acknowledged that believers have asked this question for centuries. Scripture gives signs and future promises, but many faithful Christians differ on timelines and details.

Rather than creating fear or argument, Biblical teaching on the end times should produce awareness, urgency, trust, and hope. The goal is not just more knowledge, but changed living.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Luke 21:10-11

- How should hope in Christ's return change the way we live today?
 - If you knew your time was short, what conversations or priorities would change?
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6. The Goal Is Love

Pastor Ken reminded us that truth matters, but truth must be carried in love. Christians can hold strong convictions while also wearing compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness.

Jesus Christ is the hope of the world, and Christ in us is meant to reach our world.

Colossians 3:12-17

- Which quality in this passage do you most need to grow in right now?
 - Why is love essential when discussing difficult theological topics?
 - How can your daily life point someone to Jesus this week?
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CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to focus more on Jesus than debates.
- I need stronger Christian community in my life.
- I need wisdom for a decision I am facing.
- I need greater urgency to share Christ with others.
- I need to grow in grace and love toward people I disagree with.

PRAYER

Thank God that He is truth, wisdom, and hope. Ask Him to strengthen your faith, guide your decisions, deepen your love for others, and help you live with urgency and peace. Pray that Jesus Christ would be seen clearly through your life this week.