



Outward Group Discussion Guide

July 26, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Pastor Matt explores the foundational purpose of the church, challenging the notion that Christianity is primarily about behavior modification, political ideology, moral standards, or social justice. The sermon centers on the "mystery of godliness" — the revealed secret that has been hidden for ages — which is Christ dwelling in believers, described in Colossians 1 as "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The church is not a building but a gathering of people who are the body of Christ, called to be a pillar and foundation of truth. That truth is not a system or ideology but a person: Jesus Christ, who was God manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, witnessed by angels, proclaimed among the nations, and taken up into glory. The sermon calls believers to move beyond a shallow, decision-based faith into the unsearchable riches of Christ, understanding that transformation flows not from human effort but from the supernatural indwelling of the living God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon draws a sharp distinction between behavior modification and life transformation -- in what ways have you personally confused the two, and how does understanding the difference change the way you approach your faith?
2. The pastor emphasizes that we do not go to church but rather we are the church -- how does this shift in identity change the way you think about your responsibility to the people around you in your neighborhood, workplace, and home?
3. Paul describes the church as a pillar and foundation of truth in 1 Timothy 3:15 -- what does it look like practically for a local congregation to faithfully uphold and display truth without claiming an infallible corner on it?
4. The sermon describes the mystery of the gospel as Christ in you, the hope of glory, drawn from Colossians 1:27 -- what does it mean to you personally that the creator God would choose to dwell inside ordinary, imperfect people?
5. The pastor argues that no one reasons or decides their way into genuine faith apart from the work of

the Holy Spirit -- how does this understanding of salvation shape the way you view your own belief and your compassion toward those who do not yet believe?

6. Paul writes in Ephesians 3 that the manifold wisdom of God is made known through the church to rulers and authorities in heavenly places -- how does it change your sense of purpose to consider that what happens in your local church body carries significance in the spiritual realm?
7. The sermon points out that the unsearchable riches of Christ are available even in the midst of a person's worst sin -- where do you find it most difficult to receive that reality for yourself, and what does it reveal about your understanding of grace?
8. The pastor describes Jesus as simultaneously the creator God, validated by the Spirit, attended by angels, and seated as our advocate at the right hand of the Father -- which of these facets of Christ's identity is least familiar or most challenging for you to hold onto, and why?
9. The sermon warns against reducing Christianity to a political ideology, a standard of morality, or a

system of social justice -- how do you guard your own faith against being slowly reshaped by one of these substitutes without abandoning genuine concern for justice and ethics?

10. The pastor closes by saying that belonging comes before behaving, that transformation flows from already being included in the household of God -- how does grounding your obedience in belonging rather than in earning change the way you engage with your struggles and failures?