



Outward Group Discussion Guide

August 30, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 1 Timothy 6, Pastor Matt calls the church to hold firmly to orthodox Christian doctrine, warning that what a person believes about God will always manifest in how they live. The sermon addresses both external threats to sound teaching and the internal idols of approval, comfort, security, and control that function as personal false doctrines. Pastor Matt emphasizes that the gospel is not merely the entry point of the Christian life but its ongoing foundation, and that deviation from gospel-centered living produces the same destructive fruit as false teaching: envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction. The church is called to be teachable, to live in community, and to recognize that all approval, comfort, security, and control are fully found in Jesus Christ and his atoning work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The pastor says that what you believe about God always comes out in how you live -- in what specific areas of your daily life do you see your theology, whether sound or distorted, most clearly reflected in your behavior?
2. Paul warns Timothy about those who teach a different doctrine, and the pastor extends this warning to internal idols like approval, comfort, security, and control -- which of these four idols do you find yourself most frequently substituting for Christ, and how does that manifest in your relationships?
3. The pastor describes the gospel not as the ABCs of the Christian faith but as the A to Z of the entire Christian life -- how does returning to the gospel change the way you approach your ongoing sin and struggles rather than simply trying harder to be better?
4. The sermon draws a parallel between counterfeit currency detection and sound theology, arguing that you must study the real thing to spot the fake -- how intentional are you about immersing

yourself in orthodox, biblical teaching, and what practical steps could you take to go deeper?

5. The pastor confesses that he has contributed to dissension and asks the congregation what they personally need to own -- what is one area of relational conflict in your life where pride or an unexamined idol may be preventing you from taking honest responsibility?
6. Paul describes false teachers as having an unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrels, and the pastor connects this to modern media culture that rewards outrage and provocation -- how do your media consumption habits shape the way you engage with disagreement inside the church?
7. The sermon distinguishes between controversy that helps the genuine be recognized, as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 11, and controversy driven by pride and ignorance -- how do you personally discern whether a theological dispute is worth engaging or whether it is merely feeding an unhealthy craving?
8. The pastor warns against imagining that godliness is a means of gain, whether financial,

relational, or positional -- in what ways might you be approaching your service, attendance, or spiritual disciplines with an expectation that God owes you something in return?

9. The sermon emphasizes that being teachable and living in community are essential safeguards against personal heresy and idolatry -- is there someone in your life who has genuine permission to speak difficult truth to you, and how have you responded the last time they did?
10. The pastor points to the rapid growth in baptisms as evidence of the Holy Spirit's work, while also acknowledging that spiritual fruitfulness makes the church a greater target for the enemy -- how does understanding spiritual warfare change the way you respond to conflict, division, or difficulty within your church community?