



Scriptures for further study

John 1:1, 14 | John 20:30-31 | 2 Corinthians 5:21 | 1 John 2:2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1.16

Matthew 16:13-23

1. What are some of the different ways you have heard Jesus described by non-Christians, either people you know or references you have heard in pop culture? Why do you think people vary so widely on who they understand Jesus to be? What do you consider to be the most important thing to believe about Jesus?
2. In Matthew 16:13-14, Jesus refers to Himself as the "Son of Man." What does this title infer about Jesus' character and mission? What do the different answers given by the disciples say about Jesus' reputation in the culture at the time? How would you describe who Jesus is to someone who isn't a believer?
3. According to Matthew 16:15-16, rather than question the merit of their answers, Jesus questioned the personal beliefs of His disciples. Why was this the case? What do we learn about Jesus from Peter's response? What implications for someone's life does claiming that Jesus is the Christ have?
4. Why do you think Jesus praised Peter for his confession, verses 17-20? Why is this the only sure foundation for the church? How can reaffirming Christ as the foundation of the church help us be more effective in reaching others with the gospel?
5. What forces at work in our society seem to threaten the church? How does it feel to know that nothing can overpower it? How does it impact our work in proclaiming the gospel through it?
6. What is the Gospel that truly saves? Who do your friends say Jesus is — and what is the "Good News" each of them lives by? Who do you say Jesus is? What does your life say Jesus is? What is the "Good News" you live by?
7. If you are a Christian, then what was the most significant factor that led you to confess Jesus as the Christ? How can the reality that God's church is unstoppable because of its foundation impact your life today? Tomorrow? What are some specific ways you can engage those around you with the truth of the gospel?