

Weekend Message Questions
Confessions: Week 3
“I am concerned about the American church.”
April 29-30, 2023

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CHECK-IN: Check with the members of your group to see how they are doing.

DISCUSS:

The Apostle Paul wrote multiple letters to churches and these letters make up most of the New Testament.

- If Paul was writing a letter to the American church, what do you think he would say?
- If Paul was writing a letter to you, as a follower of Jesus in America, what do you think he would say?

Concern 1: Resistance to the authority of scripture.

- What do you believe about scripture, and how was that belief formed?
- In what ways do you see the American Church resisting the authority of scripture?

READ: Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 3:15-17

- What stands out to you in these passages?
- Have you ever had scripture used as a weapon against you or witnessed it being used as a weapon against someone else?
 - How did that impact your view of Jesus?
 - How did that impact your view of Christians?
 - How did that impact your view of yourself?
- How can we use scripture as a tool for influencing the world around us rather than a weapon against it?

Concern 2: A commitment to division.

- What are some examples of division within the American Church that you have experienced or observed?

READ: John 17:20-21, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:1-2

- What stands out to you in these passages?
- Why do you think it's important for the Church to be unified?
- As Christians in America, we may be committed to:
 - Judgment over Grace
 - Being Right over Being Loving
 - Anger and Aggression over the Fruit of the Spirit
 - Speaking over Listening
 - Convenience over Compassion
 - Politics over People
- Which of those areas can be more of a struggle for you personally? Why?
- How can we work towards greater unity within the body of Christ?
- How can we work towards prioritizing sharing the gospel and loving people over everything else?

Concern 3: Fans but not followers of Jesus.

- What do you think it looks like to be a fan of Jesus rather than a follower?

READ: Luke 9:23-24, Luke 6:46-49

- What stands out to you in these passages?
- Have you ever known someone who seems to be a fan of Jesus, but their life does not appear to follow Jesus? What impact did they have on you or those around you?
- In what ways have you been a fan of Jesus without making the sacrifice to follow him (in other words, how has your claim to follow Jesus not matched up with the actions of your life)?
- How can you make practical changes in your life to be more of a follower of Jesus, not just a fan?
- How can we encourage and hold each other accountable in following Jesus?

Pray to close.

Can you use prayer? <https://hopefellowship.net/prayer-request/>