

People of His Presence | He Dwells Among Us (John 1.1-18)

PASTOR MIKE'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Main Idea- The life and work of Jesus made us people with unprecedented access to God's presence.

Understanding John's Gospel

- John 20.29-31
- John presents this distinction between seeing and believing, between experiencing God's presence tangentially and placing your trust in it.
- John 1.1-18 sets up major themes of the entire book-
- John sets up a tension with all of these throughout the book, without Jesus you cannot witness light, receive true life, experience new birth, know true glory

The Presence of God Is Everywhere (v.1-13)

- John begins with an allusion to creation to introduce to Jesus' role in bringing new creation
- The Importance of Logos

The Presence of God is Here (v.14-18)

- The Word became flesh
- The Story of the Exodus- Dwelt Among Us

Implications and Practices

- ***The life and work of Jesus made us a people with unprecedented access to God's presence.***
- Unprecedented access for an unprecedented season
- Don't miss him

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this passage John unpacks how God came to us in Jesus Christ. The fact that God became a human so that he could restore our relationship with him is actually a huge and shocking development in the Scriptures.
 - a. Why do you think that this was such a big deal for the biblical authors?
 - b. Is it a big deal to you? Does it surprise you? How does it affect you?
 - c. What does God's willingness to become human (in order to fix our relationship with Him that we ruined) reveal about His nature?

2. God's presence was something we had in Eden and then lost. Then regained in the tabernacle and the temple. But has now been given in a much fuller sense in the Spirit who indwells us. This means that God is literally with us and in us all the time.
 - a. When you stop to think about it, how does this fact (that God is literally always with you) impact you? How does God's presence with you change the way you live?
 - b. When do you tend to be the most aware of God's presence in your life? What moments in your life did you feel most connected to God?
 - c. When do you tend to be least aware of it and why?

3. This season has been one marked by physical distance. We have been forcibly separated from each other physically in new ways and to new degrees.
 - a. How has this impacted the distance between you and God? Have you felt him to be more present or less?
 - b. How has the lack of physical church services and gatherings impacted your relationship with God?
 - c. How has this season been teaching you to become more aware of his presence and to pursue him more intentionally?

4. Often, when we feel some kind of relational distance or lack of connection with a person, we try to make up for it by finding some kind of substitute.
 - a. Are there any ways that you are currently being tempted to do that with God? If so, what have the substitutes (idols) been?
 - b. (For those in the group that have shared what these potential substitutes are, offer to pray for everyone in those areas at the end, along with greater general awareness of God's presence.)