

(1) Who or what do you think is the “angel” of the church in Ephesus? What are the reasons for your belief? If this is truly an angelic being, does that mean Bridgeway Church has an angel? If so, what role or ministry might it serve?

(2) Reflect a few minutes on the laws that exist in America to protect religious liberty. Think about what our country would be like if there were no Constitution, no Bill of Rights, no legislative provisions that make it free and safe to worship wherever and whenever we please. Now consider that no such legal provisions or protection existed in Ephesus. Yet they flourished! Would we flourish if Oklahoma City were in the same political and religious condition as first century Ephesus? Explain your answer.

(3) How does it affect your daily Christian experience to know that “Jesus knows your works”? Do you think about this at all, or all the time? Why? If you don’t think about it, should you, and if you did think about it how do you envision it might change the way you live and speak and relate to others?

(4) Talk about the reality of theological orthodoxy and love for one another that ought both to exist in the life of the local church. Why do some churches emphasize one more than the other? How should we avoid falling into the trap of thinking that if we have one of these we can dispense with the other? Why do they so often seem to stand in opposition to each other in such a way that people think it’s ok to have one but not the other?

(5) What did Jesus mean when he threatened to “come” and “remove the lampstand” from the church at Ephesus? Do you think this applies to all local churches? If so, what should we do at Bridgeway to make certain this never happens to us?