



LOOKING FORWARD 2021

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Read the text: Revelation 19:6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

As we look ahead to 2021, we must start with who we are because “being precedes doing.” We are the bride of Christ, purified and made holy and glorious through the work of the

groom, Jesus Christ. As 2020 revealed, some of us put too much hope in the bride, expecting it to do what only Jesus, the groom, can do. And some of us did not love the bride nearly enough, walking away from the church Jesus laid down His life to save. As we start a new year, we are invited to renew our calling and commitment to be the precious bride of Jesus. This is a high calling and one that pandemics cannot change. Yet, we must do this with our eyes set firmly on Jesus, the groom who is making a bride for Himself holy and glorious.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

This week, there are fewer questions to give you time to engage around the two primary questions. Take your time and give each person room to reflect on these questions and answer them honestly. Then, take time to pray together at the end.

1. What did the trials of 2020 reveal about how you viewed the church, Christ's bride? Did you engage in what Pastor Tim called "ecclesiolatry", placing too much hope in the church that needed to be placed in Jesus, the groom? Or, did the trials of 2020 reveal that you lack love for the church and may not be as committed to her as you would have said? Maybe it was too easy for you to view the body as a great option, but not really essential? Most of us are somewhere on this spectrum. Where do you think you would land and why do you think that is?
2. Pastor Tim outlined a big picture vision for Doxa in the year ahead. It included: 1) How will we gather on Sundays? 2) How will we live in community in a global pandemic? 3) How will we grow as disciples personally through spiritual

formation practices? 4) How will we develop men and women to lead and serve in their gifting? 5) How will we reach non-Christians? And 6) How will we celebrate God's work in the everyday stuff of life, such as school, work, and home life?

- a. In light of what Tim shared, how will you commit to "gather, go, give, and grow" in 2021? Take time to discuss, being as specific as you can be.
3. Take some time to pray together, both for Doxa as a whole church and for each member of your group. Ask the Spirit to help us make disciples and grow as disciples in 2021.