

CHAPTER 06 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: “SEEK COMMUNITY”

Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything, by Jeremy Treat

1. On p. 104, the author states, “The church is meant to be a preview of coming attractions that is the eternal kingdom of God. When the world looks at the church, it should be a glimpse into God’s reign on earth as it is in heaven. They should say, ‘That’s what it looks like when love overcomes hate.’ ‘That’s how a community functions when people are treated with dignity regardless of their social status.’ ‘That’s how power is used not to coerce but to serve.’ But not only does the church offer a glimpse; it should make us long for the fulness of the kingdom.”
 - What is attractive to you about this ideal?
 - What is disappointing to you about the way the church often fails to live up to this ideal?
2. The author says this on page 107: “Jesus said, ‘I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it’ (Matt. 16:10). Jesus advances his mission through his people, and that means our commitment to Christ is inseparable from our commitment to the church.”
 - How do you see the commitment to Jesus and to Jesus’ church as linked? In what way?
 - Do you think most Christians today see this as a vital link? What do you think might change if more Christians saw their commitment to the church as a vital display of their commitment to Jesus?
3. Read this paragraph from p. 108, “Certainly the mission of the church is to make disciples as a community set apart from the world. But what kind of disciples? This is the key. The church is a distinct community that makes disciples and equips those disciples to be salt and light, participating in God’s work the renewal in the world.”
 - Do you think most Christians you know view their Christianity as a private thing or a public thing? Discuss.
 - Read this quote and discuss: “The mission of the church is not limited to making disciples who simply know how to pray and study the Bible. We need disciples who can represent the king in *all of life*, including the spheres in which we work, live, and play. The church is to make disciples who are salt and light in the world, who love their neighbors, who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God “ (p. 109).
4. “When you join a local church, you are stepping into a stream of the Lord’s constant work of brining his reign on earth as it is in heaven. The church is not a building you go to; it’s a people you go with. The church is not an event you attend; it’s a mission you join. The church is not a club you sign up for; it’s a family you’re a part of” (p. 111).
 - What do you like about this statement? What about it resonates with you?
 - How do you think we might be able to emphasize this better at MHC?
5. What is your biggest takeaway from this discussion? What is the one thing you want to remember going forward?