

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, September 27, 2020

THE
ESSENTIAL CHURCH
STUDYING THE NATURE & PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

"The local church is a community of regenerated believers, under the Headship of Christ and the authority of Scripture, who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They organize under qualified biblical leadership, gather regularly for preaching, teaching, and worship..."

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- What is the Church, and who alone determines its nature and purpose?
- Contrast the *visible* and *invisible* church. What's the relationship between the *universal* church and the *local* church? Explain how the local church functions as an embassy of the Kingdom of God.
- What does it mean that Jesus is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18)? What responsibility has Jesus given the church (Matthew 16:15-19)? How is Jesus better than our former head Adam (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)?
- Why does the Bible carry God's authority (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21)? Explain how submitting to the authority of Scripture demonstrates Christ's rule in the world? Why is it important to have a biblical worldview?
- What does it mean to confess that Jesus is Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5)?
- What are the qualifications of Pastor/Elders and Deacons (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-13), and how do they faithfully lead God's people?
- Why does the church gather, and is it necessary (Hebrews 10:24-25)?