

Sermon Discussion Questions

**Sabbatical Reflections**

1 Timothy 3:14-16

August 28, 2016

1. Have you ever had an extended period of time where you could rest? What did you (or do you) do to occupy your time? Were you goal driven?
2. In order to grow in godliness we have to be in an environment of love. Describe what that environment might look like? Have you experienced pure, God-honoring love? Have you known it at church? Describe how you know you are loved?
  - a. Why do people struggle with giving and receiving love? Do you? Why or why not?
3. Of the three parts to what it means to be a church, rank them on what we do the best to what we do the worst and discuss why you feel that way.
  - a. What are some characteristics of a church that isn't "of the living God" (1 Tim. 3:15). Is Faith Church "of the living God" – or, another way of asking it is, is God revealing that His is alive and well in our church? How do you know?
  - b. We are to be "the pillar and support of the truth." In what ways can we communicate God's truth in relevant ways to the people of our community? (leader—pass on any ideas to Pastor Pat or Pastor Jeremy—thanks)
4. Reread the three questions regarding Jesus and His impact on us to grow in the mystery of godliness and discuss your answers to them, responding to them personally.
  - a. The third question relates to reaching out with the love of Jesus to our world around us. If you are going to be a part of Serve Sunday, how can we connect people to the good news of Jesus when we are serving them (without being obnoxious)?
  - b. Our vision is to reach 10% of Manitowoc for Jesus Christ—to share the gospel and lead people to trust Him to save them from their sins and for their eternal life. Take a poll of your HDG, how many of you would be comfortable telling an unsaved person the gospel? Discuss your reasons why you are either hesitant, or comfortable telling people about Jesus.
    - i. How can we get more Christians to share their faith and the impact Jesus can make on our lives with someone who doesn't know Jesus?
5. How are you feeling?—Jeremy shared that he felt he really needed his sabbatical. Do you need a time of rest? Why or why not? What can we do to help you know the rest, peace, and unconditional love of Jesus in your life in deeper ways?