



What Are We Waiting For? | Doug Wekenman | 4.16.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Doug started our brand new series *We the Church* by challenging us to go and do what we are purposed to do in our everyday ordinary lives at that is to make heaven more crowded. Just as God has invited Doug for his faith to get out more, he invited us to do the same. So, what are we waiting for?

GROW

Read John 10:9; 14:6 20:19-21

This week Doug challenged the viewpoint of Christianity being exclusive by pointing out that it's the opposite heart of God's Kingdom by reading the truth about who God is and who he is for. Church is not a country club for those who have it all together, church is a hospital for those who know they don't. Remember the pivotal word WHOEVER in John 3:16? "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that WHOEVER - believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Doug reminded us that Jesus being the one and only son of the one and only God and the one and only door to heaven is *not* exclusive because everybody's on the list and anyone's invited. You see, this belief that Christianity is exclusive is not only from people who are outside the church but unfortunately, we see this within the walls of the church as well. And this is when people experience church hurt by it being more of a "country

club” than a hospital. This is when it becomes exclusion and not the specific. When the heart of God for the Church is that It’s not exclusive, it’s very specific.

- **Why do you think that it may be difficult in our current culture for people to believe that Jesus is the *only* way to God?**
- **What do you think Doug meant by the Church is not *exclusive* but it's *specific*?**
- **Have you ever experienced the *exclusion* within the Church? How did this experience shape your view of the Church? Of Jesus?**

As we continue to learn what it means to be the Church in our everyday ordinary lives let us remember that Jesus is for WHOEVER and that we are broken and in need of a Savior on our best day and our worst just as the next person. This is specific.

MOVE

Read Acts 1:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:7

To quote Doug it was a “ragtag group of uneducated and ordinary people” that God chose to start the greatest movement of love the world has ever seen, it was specific. He didn’t just send them out and give them a pat on the back and wish them luck. No! Jesus instructs those he chooses and if we believe he did that for this *ragtag* group of people, he will do this for us. Each of us have a divine appointment with the Maker of the Universe who wants us to know that we are chosen, called, and made on purpose for a purpose by him.

- **Do you believe that you are divinely chosen for this moment in time to make heaven more crowded?**

There is no natural explanation for the church. But there is a supernatural one. The Holy Spirit. And as Doug reminded us of this week that a critical component to His good plan is caught up in you and I building the Church. This is more than inviting people *to* the building, it is asking God daily to make us so aware of who needs to hear this Good News and when to share it and we cannot do it in our own power, nor are we expected to. The Holy Spirit is the power, the helper. He’s the convicter and the teacher. And if Jesus said it is literally better for him to go

so that the Holy Spirit can show up, then let's live like we believe that's true. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will empower his church to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

- **What has been a barrier to your boldness of faith?**
- **Remembering who the Holy Spirit is, how have you experienced him in your life?**

We are the church. And we know Jesus is *the way and the truth and light*. We know the story. But we need to know the time, and it's right now. Doug challenged us by the important reminder that today is the day of salvation. It is the week of invitation and the month of boldly sharing our faith. Friends, we are part of an uncommon movement that changes lives forever. So, with that said, *what are we waiting for?*

- **What are you waiting for?**
- **Ask God to show you who needs to hear the Good News of the Gospel this week. Expecting that he will, ask God to give you boldness to take that person to coffee, or go on a walk and share your story and what God has done in your life.**

P R A Y

Pray together in smaller groups and ask the Holy Spirit to give you boldness and a sense of expectation for him to walk with you as you share the Good News of Jesus. Pray for the people in your life who need Jesus to enter in and redeem and restore.

