



# QUESTIONS from the CONGREGATION



LHBC

**community  
groups**





# LIVINGHOPE

baptist church

*Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who according to  
His abundant mercy  
has begotten us again to a  
Living Hope  
through the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

*1 Peter 1:3*



## **Community Group Purpose Statement**

We, as smaller gatherings of one family, will practice with our lives the gospel truths that we confess with our mouths. Together, we will allow our lives to be challenged by the gospel and one another; we will live lives of boldness and purpose. As we walk in the light of the gospel, we will point to the grace of God and its power to set lives free from sin and death. We will continue praying, teaching, making disciples, and bearing one another's burdens. Following the pattern set before us by Jesus, we will bring joy to our family (the church) and glory to his name.

## **What is a Community Group?**

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Living Hope Baptist Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

## **Why Should I Join a Community Group?**

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.



# QUESTIONS from the CONGREGATION

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# **Questions from the Congregation**

## INTRODUCTION

The congregation of Living Hope was asked to turn in questions concerning areas of the Bible that they would like to hear what God's Word said on that particular subject. That is why this series is being called, "Questions from the Congregation."

The goal is not to just supply content to answer a question, but as always, to see and hear and feel the heart of God from His Word. As we will see each week, the answer to each particular question is really related to a much bigger issue which should concern every follower of Christ. We hope you are encouraged and look forward to studying God's Word through each topic and the deeper subject that lies behind it.



## *Question 1*

# **What Does the Bible Say About Tattoos and Body Piercings?**

## **SUMMARY**

Members and friends of Living Hope were given the opportunity to turn in questions that they would like to hear a sermon about. Today's study as well as the lessons to follow will correspond to those questions and the teachings on Sunday mornings. If you have not heard the sermon for this lesson, you can hear it in its entirety on the church website which can be found at [www.lhbcevv.org](http://www.lhbcevv.org).

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Read **Isaiah 42:5,8**. What is the "heart of God" in these verses? (What is the main thing God is wanting the reading to grasp?)

2. Read **Deuteronomy 4:23, 24**. How do these verses describe God when His people place anything above Him?

3. How can we apply what we have learned in questions one and two to help us make good decisions related to our body?

4. As you read **Psalm 19:1-6**, is God's glory seen or is it hidden? How can this be related to the decisions we make concerning our body?

5. Read **1 Peter 4:2-4**. What do you see here in relation to what a lost world notices in God's children? What do they notice? What is their response?

6. Read **1 Corinthians 6:19,20**. These verses are in the context of sexual sin but the truth and principles apply to every area of our life. Answer the following questions from these verses:

a. As a child of God, who lives within you?

b. How did you, as a child of God, obtain this salvation where the Holy Spirit lives within you?

c. What declaration is made concerning your life and your body?

*Question 1: What Does the Bible Say About Tattoos and Body Piercings?*

**d.** Why are you not your own? Why do you as a child of God not own yourself?

**e.** What is the natural conclusion for you and your body because of what God has done for you?

**7.** Based on what we just learned in **1 Cor. 6:19,20**, in what ways can we glorify God in our body? After writing these down ask yourself is there any area where you need to repent?

**8.** Often times we dress or do other things to our body in order to identify or find our identity from others. Read **Galatians 1:10**. What is Paul's conclusion if he tries to find his identity in people rather than in Christ alone? (His main concern is the preaching of the gospel but this principle is applicable in every area of our life)

9. Read **Romans 14:13**. What guideline is written here in relation to making decisions with other believers in mind?





## *Chapter 2*

# **Will our Relationships on Earth Continue in Heaven?**

## **SUMMARY**

The question in this lesson centers on what happens to the marriage relationship after the resurrection? A related question concerns our relationships with our children and other family members after the resurrection. If these relationships end, how can we look forward to eternity knowing that our husband or wife will no longer be our husband or wife? Is there a greater relationship that will surpass the joy and blessing of God's plan of marriage here on earth? Is that future relationship that will surpass the earthly relationship something I begin to practice today? We will see that there are relationships that will last for all eternity and in this we can rejoice today.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Read **Mark 12:24-27** and answer the following questions:

- a. What reason did Jesus give for their wrong thinking?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. How do these verses help you to believe God when it is something you can't fully grasp in your mind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. What is Jesus' clear statement about the future related to the married here on earth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. What was Jesus' argument to the Sadducees that proved there was a resurrection?

2. Many married people may struggle to see how this important relationship will end and not be recognized in eternity. How does knowing the character and power of God help you in this possible struggle?

3. How can you find joy in the fact of the resurrection for your spouse even if they are not your spouse in eternity?

4. What should your burden be for an unsaved spouse or family member?

5. What reasons can you think of for God creating marriage? See **Ephesians 5:22-33**.

If you know any other Scripture, please include that in your answer.

**6.** How does **Philippians 1:21** help us to grow in our relationship with Christ and to also be joyful when death occurs for the saved spouse? How does this help you keep your most important relationship with your spouse in the proper perspective?

**7.** Read **Revelation 21:9,27**. What relationships will continue throughout all eternity?

**8.** Something to think about: Do you ever view your saved spouse as a brother and sister in Christ? What responsibilities does that bring?





## *Chapter 3*

# The Creator and the Created

## **SUMMARY**

This week's question asks if God's time is our time and did God use 6 literal 24 hour days to create and then rest a literal 24 hour day on day 7? Or, did God create using a longer period of time such as thousands of years or maybe even millions? This question has been debated down through the ages. It is this author's opinion, that the emphasis in Scripture concerning the creation and the Creator is not to address the time involved but rather the power, nature, and character of the Creator as related to His creation. There are Bible believing Christians that fall on both sides of this issue. This lesson will examine the relationship between the Creator and the creation which should be a great source of encouragement.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Read **Psalm 146**. What contrasts do you see between trusting the creation and trusting the Creator? (Why would you trust one over the other?)
2. Read Psalm 8:3,4. In what ways does reflecting on the Creator and His work humble you?



3. Read **Job 38:1-4**. In what way would this humble you and in what way would this encourage you?

4. Read **Job 40:3-5**. Why was this Job's response?

5. Read **Nehemiah 9:6** and **9:17**. What do you see that is so amazing about this powerful God of Creation related to the sins of man? How does this differ from the "gods" that the world has created? (Greek Mythology, etc..)

6. Read **Romans 1:18-20**. What reason is given for all men everywhere not being able to have an excuse to escape judgment?

7. Why do you think Satan would promote evolution? What do you think is the main reason?

8. Read **Isaiah 40:25-31**. Examine your life and be prepared to share with your group some areas where you are struggling in trusting God. How does this passage convict you and encourage you about your trust with your Creator?





## *Chapter 4*

# **Is Loving Each Other as Important as Loving the Lost?**

## **SUMMARY**

Today's question revolves around the topic of love and service. What kind of love and service does Jesus call for His church as related to the lost and related to the saved? Is one more important than the other or do both exist as being equally important? **Matthew 5:43-46** commands us to love our enemies and if we only love those who love us we are not exercising the love the Lord commands of us. So then, is loving those in the church not considered true service and love because generally speaking these people love us? We will see in this lesson that God calls His children to be devoted to one another, to love one another, to sacrifice for one another, and to make other believers a top priority in their lives. By doing this, you are showing the world you are truly a follower of Jesus.

## **QUESTIONS**

Answer the following questions from **John 13**.

**1.** Jesus loved and served these men when he was just a few short hours from his humiliation (**v.1**). Do you find it hard to love and serve others when you are going through difficult times?

If you answered yes, why is it difficult?

**2. Verse 1** also tells us that Jesus loved his own who were in the world to the end – or fully, completely, and perfectly. What are some things we deal with that may cause us to stop loving others?

**3. Verses 4 & 5** inform us that Jesus took upon himself the role of the lowliest servant by washing the disciple's feet. From Luke's gospel we discover that they had been fighting over who was the greatest. These men were once again failing Jesus in his greatest hour of need but he still loved them and served them. Do you find it difficult to love and serve others who have failed you?

If you answered yes, why is it difficult?

**4. In verse 15**, Jesus said, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." In what ways can we imitate this example to other believers?

**5.** In **verse 34 & 35** Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

How does this devoted, sacrificial, serving type of love grab the attention of the world including believers and unbelievers?

**6.** In what way has this lesson of Jesus in John chapter 13 convicted you concerning your love and service to fellow believers?







## *Chapter 5*

# **The God Most People Don't Like**

## **SUMMARY**

Today's lesson centers on the wrath of God. "What does a biblical portrait of God resemble? Is He mainly a God of wrath, fury, and vengeance or is He mainly a God of grace, mercy, and patience? What does the Bible say about the wrath of God toward sin, sinners, and those already in judgment?"

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Read the following verses and write down who God's wrath is directed to.

**Amos 3:1,2 -**

**Exodus 4:12-14 -**

**Deuteronomy 9:20 -**

**Numbers 12:9 -**

**Exodus 12:9,10 -**

**Joshua 7:24-26 -**

**John 3:36 -**

2. Read the following verses and write down how God revealed His wrath whether figuratively or literally.

**Jeremiah 15:14 -**

**Jeremiah 30:23 -**

**Hosea 5:10 -**

**Exodus 19:12 -**

3. What reason does **Romans 1:18** give for the wrath of God being revealed from His throne?

*Question 5: The God Most People Don't Like*

4. Even before the final judgment, how is the wrath of God upon unrepentant people today?

5. How does knowing God's intense hatred for sin show you his intense love for sinners?

6. Why is sharing God's wrath to unbelievers a must in evangelism?

7. Read **Romans 5:9**. What is God's only way to escape His wrath?

8. After reading **Romans 2:8,9**, what should be our response and burden as believers in Christ?







## *Chapter 6*

# **Is There Retirement for a Disciple of Christ?**

## **SUMMARY**

When an unbeliever's heart is opened and made alive by the Spirit of God, he or she begins to discover a whole new world that once they were dead to. It is a time of excitement and discovery and is often accompanied by great emotion. The believer may struggle as these initial emotions seem to fade. It is possible to leave our first love of Jesus, but does the Bible teach the child of God to base his life on emotions or obedience out of love for His Savior? Emotions are from God but they were never designed to be the foundation of our faith. Obedience in every age of our life, no matter what our emotions are, reflects a love for Jesus and a love for His people and is what characterizes a true disciple of Jesus.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What differences have you noticed in your walk with the Lord looking back on the time you were saved until now? Categorize these as what you see as negative and what you see as positive:

**Positive:**

**Negative:**

2. Read **Titus 2:14; 3:8; and 3:14**. What do you see that is repeated three times in these verses that is required as a child of God?

3. Read **Revelation 2:1-7** and answer the following questions:

a. What things are praised about this church in Ephesus? (**Verses 2,3,6**)

b. What are they reprimanded for in verse 4?

c. What are they commanded to do in verse 5a?

d. If they do not repent, what is promised in verse 5b?

4. This “First love” certainly refers to Jesus and some even believe it also refers to God’s people. Verse 5 commands them to do “the works you did at first.” Serving out of love for Jesus and serving those who Jesus loves.”

*Question 6: Is There Retirement for a Disciple of Christ?*

Read **John 14:21**.

a. What is the believer to practice?

b. Why does he practice this?

In what ways do (you) we give evidence that we have left our first love?

According to **Rev. 2:5**, what should we do about this problem?





## *Chapter 7*

# Human Obedience Leads to Spirit Filling

## **SUMMARY**

What is the difference, if any, between praise, worship, and thankfulness? Do we approach or handle these differently? Is it possible to be doing well with one of these and poorly with the others or is it all so intertwined that it can't be evaluated or acted upon as separate issues? Are these "real" if we make a conscious effort to do them or should they be solely a work of the Holy Spirit causing the response spontaneously?

Praise, worship, and thankfulness are separate in their expressions but are inseparable in our hearts. One cannot have one without the others. These responses are required for believers to obey and choose them and as this is done the Spirit of God enables the child of God to experience these.

## **QUESTIONS**

**1. 1 Thessalonians 5:18** commands God's children to give thanks in everything while the emphasis in **Ephesians 5:20** is that giving thanks is a result of the filling or control of the Holy Spirit. How do those two things fit together?

**2.** How can a child of God offer praise, give worship, and be thankful at all times? What foundational truths from the Scriptures support these actions that come from the heart?



3. Read **Lamentations 3:37,38**. In what way does the truth in these verses call us to view life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. As you read the list of heart issues in **2 Timothy 3:1-5**, what in that list is the opposite of praise, worship, and thankfulness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why do you think that the Scriptures would include “ungrateful” as a glaring sin in the last days?

*Question 7: Human Obedience Leads to Spirit Filling*

6. John MacArthur: The filling of the Spirit "...involves day-by-day, moment-by-moment submission to the Spirit's control. The passive aspect indicates that it is not something we do but that we allow to be done in us. The filling is entirely the work of the Spirit Himself, but He works only through our willing submission. To be filled with the Spirit involves confession of sin, surrender of will, intellect, body, time, talent, possessions, and desires. It requires the death of selfishness and the slaying of self-will. It is simply taking the Word of Christ and letting it indwell and infuse every part of our being."

The above is a great summary on how our obedience and the Spirit's filling work together. As you read the above summary, examine your life in relation to what was written and be prepared to discuss with your group.

7. Read **Genesis 50:20**. What do we learn in this verse that causes us to praise, worship, and give thanks?





## *Chapter 8*

# Questions God Asks

## **SUMMARY**

This is the last lesson in the series, “Questions from the Congregation”. Today we are examining a few questions that God has asked. God’s questions are not designed for Him to learn but rather for us to learn something about Him and something about our heart. Questions cause us to think about situations and to evaluate our heart. They force us to come face to face with important issues – issues that are important to God. Truthfully answering a question that God asks can be one of the most beneficial blessings in a person’s life. It can bring a person to Christ and it can give the believer in Christ spiritual growth to the glory of the Father.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. In **Genesis 3**, we see four things that were done immediately after there was sin.

List them:

Verse 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Realizing that we were infected with these same reactions because of the sin we inherited from Adam, how do we do the same things that you listed in question 1?

a. Cover up Sin –

**b. Run from God –**

**c. Make excuses –**

**d. Blame Shift -**

**3.** This may be a difficult question to answer but how would you answer the same question God asked Adam? How would you describe your relationship with God right now? “Where are you?”

Take as much time as you need in your group for many to share with each other their answer to this question. You may find it helpful to pray for one another after everyone is done sharing.

**4. In *John 21:15-19*, Jesus restores Peter to a place of being usable after a great failure.**

**a. What was Jesus question to Peter?**

**b.** When we fail, what things does that teach us?

**c.** In light of the question that Jesus asked Peter 3 times, what should be our motive for doing what we are doing?

**d.** In light of Peter's failure and this encounter with Jesus, are God's children required to be "perfect" in order to serve Him

**e.** Where and in what places do we get off track in our service to the Lord from "loving Him more than anything else"?





**PRAYER NEEDS**

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baptist church

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