

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Jesus teaching in John 5:17-29 was in response to the objection of the religious leaders to his healing a man on the Sabbath.
 - a. Why was Jesus' actions in healing this man on the Sabbath so offensive? Did Jesus Break God's law when he did this? Why or why not?
 - b. If Jesus knew that the Sabbath was such a sensitive issue, why did he choose to create this controversy by healing the man on this day?
2. In his message Pastor Mike talked about how God created the perfect world in the Garden of Eden, and how sin not only broke our relationship with God, but it also broke God's design in the world. Like an infection, its corrupting and destructive influence has continued to spread and infect every aspect of creation.
 - a. How would you describe the effects of sin on God's perfect creation of Eden?
 - b. Why is it important to see the brokenness of our world as a result the effect of the fall and sin, and not as an expression of God's original design?
 - c. The Gospel teaches that at the cross Jesus took our sin upon himself, thus removing the sin that separates us from God. This not fixes our broken relationship with God, but also ultimately restores all else that was broken by sin. How is that redeeming power at work in your life right now?
3. There are some who insist that Jesus never claimed to be God. They argue that after his death, Jesus followers took vague statements made by Jesus and re-interpreted them to be a claim to deity.
 - a. How is this argument refuted by the angry reaction to Jesus words with the accusation of blasphemy from Jesus opponents in passages such as John 5:18, John 10:30-33, and Matthew 26:63-65?
 - b. Why is this an important issue? Why does it matter if Jesus claimed to be God or not?
4. In John 5:22-29 Jesus teaches about the reality of an eternal judgement
 - a. In our secular culture, and even among many religious people, the idea of God's judgment is as offensive as one can get. Why is this such an offensive idea?
 - b. Is it arrogant for Christians to claim that they will go to heaven, while warning non-Christians of God's coming judgment? Explain your answer.
 - c. Is God's judgment inconsistent with what the Bible teaches about the love and grace of Jesus? Explain your answer.
 - d. In John 5:23-24 Jesus teaches each person will be judged on if they "*honor the son,*" and if they hear his word and believe "*him who sent me.*" What does it mean to honor the son and to believe in the one who sent Jesus?
 - e. In John 5:24 Jesus teaches that the person who believes in him "has eternal life," and "does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." What is the significance and meaning of the tenses of these verbs. They are not future, that we will have these things, but present (has eternal life) and past (has passed from death to life).