

Deep Dive for 7-27-25

Bible Study Questions

1. **The "Porch Theology" Question:** Ken contrasts front porches (community-focused) with back porches (privacy-focused). How has our culture's shift toward privacy and individualism affected your own relationships and sense of community? What practical steps could you take to be more community-oriented?
2. **Relational Trinity:** Ken explains that because God exists as three persons in relationship, we are created for relationship too. How does understanding God as inherently relational change the way you view your need for community and connection with others?
3. **"Catholic" Church Clarification:** Ken explains that "catholic" means "worldwide" or "universal," not denominational. How does understanding the church as a global, diverse family change your perspective on believers from different cultures, denominations, or worship styles?
4. **Holy but Not Perfect:** Ken says the church is holy because God makes us holy, even though we're not perfect yet. How do you balance holding yourself and others accountable while also extending grace for imperfection and growth?
5. **Artificial vs. Authentic Relationships:** Ken mentions that 70% of teens use AI for friendship and warns against confusing "friending" with real friendship. What are the differences between surface-level connections and deep, meaningful relationships? How can we cultivate more authentic friendships?
6. **The Greatest Commandments:** Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God and love others. Ken contrasts this with our culture's message to "be in right relationship with yourself." How do these different worldviews play out in practical daily decisions?
7. **Worldwide Family:** Ken describes churches meeting simultaneously around the world in different languages and contexts. How does knowing you're part of this global family of believers encourage you, especially during difficult times in your local church or community?
8. **Persecution and Commitment:** Ken mentions churches meeting despite persecution in China and threats in Nigeria. How does their commitment to gather despite danger challenge your own commitment to church participation?
9. **From Online to In-Person:** Ken acknowledges online church as a "first door" but encourages people not to stay there permanently. What are the unique benefits of in-

person church participation that can't be replicated online? What might be holding someone back from making that transition?

10. **Consumer vs. Committed:** Ken warns against "bouncing around and consumer shopping for churches." What's the difference between wisely seeking a biblical church and having a consumer mentality? How do you know when it's time to stop looking and start committing?
11. **"Most Inclusive and Most Exclusive":** Ken says the church is both - everyone is invited, but only those who enter through Christ are included. How do you balance sharing the gospel's exclusivity (salvation through Christ alone) with love and respect for those who believe differently?
12. **Personal Application:** Ken prays for his descendants "to the thousandth generation" and for those "held captive" in other belief systems to come to Christ. Who are the specific people in your life that you're praying will come to know Jesus? How does your love for them motivate your prayers and actions?

Discussion Questions

1. **Back Porch vs. Front Porch:** Ken observes that people invest more in their private back porches with privacy fences than in community-facing front porches. What does your own home setup say about your priorities toward privacy versus community? How has this cultural shift affected your neighborhood relationships?
2. **Digital Relationships:** With 70% of teens using AI for friendship and many adults confusing social media "friends" with real friendship, how do you maintain authentic, deep relationships in our digital age? What's the difference between knowing "a ton of people" and knowing people well?
3. **Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life:** Ken references C.S. Lewis's advice to read old books so we're not only "fed from the spirit of the age." What modern cultural messages do you think we need to challenge with ancient biblical wisdom? How can we be more discerning about cultural influences?
4. **The "Catholic" Confusion:** Many people react negatively to the word "catholic" in the creed without understanding it means "universal." What other religious words or concepts do you think people misunderstand today? How can we better communicate what we actually believe?

Holy but Imperfect: Ken says the church is holy because God makes us holy, even though we're "not sinless but sinning less." How do you handle the tension between the church's calling to holiness and the reality of human imperfection? Share an example of growth you've seen in yourself or others.

5. **People, Not Buildings:** The children's rhyme reminds us the church is people, not buildings. How does this distinction change the way we think about "going to church" versus "being the church"? What practical differences should this make?
7. **Created for Relationship:** Since we're made in the image of the relational Trinity, Ken argues we're fundamentally designed for relationship with God and others. How do you see isolation and individualism affecting people's mental health and spiritual growth? What draws people toward community?
8. **The Theological "Y'all":** Ken explains that when Scripture says "you are the church," it's always plural - "y'all are the church." How does understanding that we're only the church together, not individually, change your perspective on the importance of committed church membership?
9. **Worldwide Family:** Ken describes churches meeting simultaneously around the world in different languages and facing different challenges. How does knowing you're part of this global family encourage you? Have you ever experienced worship in a different cultural context?

10. **Persecution and Commitment:** Believers in China and Nigeria risk their safety to gather for worship. How does their commitment challenge your own attitude toward church attendance when you face much smaller obstacles like weather, tiredness, or scheduling conflicts?
11. **From Spectator to Participant:** Ken encourages people to move from online viewing to in-person participation, and from church shopping to church commitment. What fears or hesitations might keep someone in "spectator mode"? What helped you make the transition to active participation?
12. **Inclusive Yet Exclusive:** Ken describes the church as "the most inclusive and most exclusive place" - everyone is invited, but only those who enter through Christ are included. How do you maintain both the welcoming heart and the biblical truth of this statement in your interactions with others?