



Discussion Questions Keeping Watch in Uncertain Times

Key text:

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:14-15 NIV

For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then? **Galatians 5:14-15 MSG**

What stood out to you about the message? Was there an area where you felt the Holy Spirit prompting you to go deeper?

Reflect on the WATCH acronym:

W - Wait & Pray

A - Attend

T - Truth

C - Christ-Centered

H – Holdfast

Are there one or two areas here where you'd like to grow? What can you implement to help nurture continued growth in this area? Invite an individual from your small group or your entire small group to help hold you accountable for what you'd like to implement.

As you head into the new year, make some time to ask yourself the following questions:

Is my current view of Jesus...

- Moving me towards God in prayerful love?
- Moving me towards my neighbor in love – honoring their existence as people made in the image of God?
- Empowering me to stand against all forms of injustice and mistreatment against the vulnerable?
- Forming the fruits of the Spirit in my interactions, especially with those I don't see eye-to-eye with?
- Helping me to be honest about sin in its personal, interpersonal, and institutional manifestations, yet hopeful as one awaiting Christ's return. (*questions: adapted from Rich Villodas, New Life Fellowship*)

If you found yourself answering no to one or more of these questions, you're not alone. Spend some time in prayer, reflecting, and asking God what may have led to your view of Jesus being skewed or distorted. Ask God to reorient your view so you can see things accurately in the days ahead.

Now, ask the same five questions of the Big C church. Take some time in your group to pray for our church and others in the Greater Portland Metro area and the Global church.

Pray that:

- **Rev 22:4-5** would be a reality for us in 2024
- For spiritual renewal, humility, and repentance.
- Boldness in sharing about Jesus
- Politics and religiosity would not be valued over loving Jesus & People
- For Creativity in serving and meeting the needs of folks in the Greater Portland Metro Area.
- For unity and reconciliation among the people of God
- An outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- For church leaders to grow in courage and discernment.