

14 April 2024 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“Trying to Make Sense of the Spirituality of the Church ” -- John 18:33-38; Luke 12:13-14; Mark 6:14-20

Questions to Answer from the Text

1. What question did Pilate ask Jesus (John 18:33)?
2. What did Jesus tell Pilate about His Kingdom (John 18:36)?
3. Why did Jesus come into the world (John 18:37a)?
4. Who are those who listen to Jesus (John 18:37b)?
5. What task did someone ask Jesus to do (Luke 12:13)?
6. How did Jesus respond to this person who asked Him to do this (Luke 12:14)?
7. What did John the Baptist say to King Herod that got him into trouble (Mark 6:18)?
8. Who was upset because John said this to King Herod (Mark 6:19a)?
9. What did this person who was upset with John want to do to him (Mark 6:19b)?
10. How did King Herod treat John (Mark 6:20)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

11. What would you offer as a simple definition of “The Spirituality of the Church”?
12. What does the *Westminster Confession of Faith* teach about the spirituality of the Church? [See *WCF* 25.1, 3; 31.4]
13. Because the Church’s mission is to proclaim and teach the Gospel, does this mean that it must be silent about any and all matters that involve the civic sphere?
14. What would you consider an extraordinary exception to *WCF* 31.4 wherein the Church would petition the magistrate pertaining to a particular matter? Would you agree or disagree with T. David Gordon’s position regarding a proposed overture to the magistrate? [See <https://theaquilareport.com/thoughts-on-overture-12-from-the-2023-pca-general-assembly-sending-the-overture-to-the-civil-magistrate/>.]
15. How have various denominations and/or churches improperly inserted themselves in the affairs of the civil magistrate?
16. What are ways, other than voting, that Christian citizens might get involved in the civic realm to advance truth and the cause of righteousness?
17. When denominations or churches promote political activism, whether from the political left, right, or center, is the church diminished, enhanced, or neither?

- 18. Are individual Christians immune from spiritual and ecclesiastical accountability in the exercise of their political rights and actions?**
- 19. How should a particular congregation react and respond to the cultural deviations from God's creational designs when such deviations become political issues?**
- 20. Is the proclamation of the Gospel, teaching what Christ commanded, and administering the sacraments sufficient means to impact the civic realm? Why or why not?**