

## Discussion Questions for the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>

### BIG IDEA:

This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther posting 95 theses to the roman catholic door. He called out corruption that was deep seeded in the church- selling forgiveness, selling indulgences, you name it. Today we live in a culture that is running far from God and there are bodies of 'Christians' selling the idea that following Christ is showing up on Sundays, involvement in faith based activities, and checking boxes to be "good enough". This year we are putting our own nail on the door. We are going to radically love and follow Jesus by following what His word says is true.

God will use somebody this year to reawaken His "Big C Church", why not us?

### ICE BREAKER:

What is something you have 95 of? What do you own or possess that you have in number 95 or greater? (Could be quarter collection or freckles on their face, let students answer creatively.)

### DISCUSSION:

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

1. Think about the words spiritual and religious? What does each word mean? How are the two words then alike and how are they different?
2. Do either of those words encompass works? Is there works in religion?
3. What is faith? As it's described in Ephesians 2:8-9 what is faith and what is faith not?
4. How is a person saved? What does "Saved" mean?
5. New word. – Relationship. What are types of relationships we can hold? What does relationship look like with authority? What images come to mind?
6. Think back words and images you came up with to describe "religion" how do those transfer, if at all, to "relationship"?
7. At WAKE, in this small group, or at Watermark what are we consumed with? Are we pursuing a religion or a and relationship with Jesus?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

8. When you think about authority, what images come to mind? How do you define or determine authority?
9. Maybe you picked up on retreat last weekend, the saying- "What you believe about God might be the most important thing about you." Why would it be that how you see His image and His authority affects how you see yourself?
10. How do you see the Bible? (Is it important, helpful, necessary, a book that sits on a shelf or coffee table?)
11. Because of this, how are we called to see the scripture as a part of our lives?
12. Why do we go to the Bible for truth?

Read Ephesians 5:22-29 –look specifically at each mention of Church. If people are marking in their own bibles maybe put a cross on top of each reference to church.

13. What is the church/ Who makes up the church? (More than a building)
14. What is the relationship with Christ and the church?
15. Who is authority over the Church?
16. What relationship does scripture use to demonstrate how Jesus feels about the church?
17. If you remember from Harrison's message- who had the Church, wrongly, made their authority?
18. Where should church get authority?

Read Revelation 2:1-9

19. Who is being addressed?
20. in verses 2-3 what are they good at?
21. What is their offense? What have they forsaken?
22. What is the purpose of the Church and why do we go? What does it mean to be the Church?
23. What is the essence of Christian Living?
24. What is the first love?
25. Could this be written to us?
26. What are works or religious type deeds that we do to try to please God or "earn" favor/ salvation?
27. Like in verse 5, how would you repent and come back to the "first love"?
28. Have you seen some around you live out their faith in a way that inspires you? Share a story or example of how someone you know is seeking to live out the gospel and bring reform to the world around them.

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### Memory minutes:

**Sola Scriptura-** *Only the Bible (holy scriptures).* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Sola Gratia-** *Only Grace.* Ephesians 2:8-9

**Sola Fide-** *Only Faith.* Romans 1:17

**Silas Christus-** *Only Christ.* Colossians 1:15-23

**Soli Deo Gloria-** *Glory is only God's.* Romans 11:36