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# TALK IT OVER

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## Five Critical Filters For A Moment of Decision

Pastor Andy Wood

October 12-13, 2024

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit [www.saddleback.com/watch](http://www.saddleback.com/watch).

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

### Scriptures Used:

Acts 1:6-8, John 13:35, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Chronicles 7:14

### Questions:

1. Pastor Andy opened this message with the statement, “The world is outpacing the church with the shaping of our worldview.” Share what it means to you. In what ways can Christians act on their priorities to shape worldviews?
2. When the disciples asked Jesus if he was going to restore the kingdom of Israel, his response was, “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” in Acts 1:6-8. Why would Jesus choose to redirect the focus from politics to the importance of being His witnesses? How does this relate to His followers today?
3. In John 13:35, Jesus tells us, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” What are some ways we can show our love for one another on a day-to-day basis? How could these actions draw others to Christ?
4. In Romans 12:1-2 it says, “... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, ... Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is ...” How can we know God’s will? What should be our ultimate standard? Why can we depend on scripture for our guidance in all things?

5. Pastor Andy told us the Way of God addresses:

- The Value of Human Life.
- Biblical Unity Among Races.
- Marriage, Gender, Sexuality.
- Care For Orphans and Widows.
- Religious Freedom.
- Care For The Poor.

Discuss how one or all of these things address the way of God.

6. Pastor Andy asked, “Can the church still thrive regardless of who is in office?” Use biblical history to respond to this question and explain how it may apply to our future.
7. Only Jesus can give peace, salvation and revival as it says in 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” How can this apply to us today?

### Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

### Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment:

<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>

2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback’s ever-growing library of small group curriculum.

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Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email [Maturity@saddleback.com](mailto:Maturity@saddleback.com)