



Sermon Discussion Questions

August 16, 2026

John 20:19-23

Clint Pressley

The Three Foundational Pillars

1. Exalting Christ - The sermon describes exalting Christ both vertically (our relationship with God) and horizontally (our relationships with others). Which dimension do you find easier? Which is more challenging? Why?
2. Making Disciples- How would you explain the difference between "easy believism" and genuine discipleship? Why is this distinction important?
3. Passing the Torch- Who has been instrumental in passing the faith to you? How are you currently investing in the next generation, whether children, students, or new believers?

The Five Objectives

1. The Pastor said worship is "our way of responding to God" and includes private devotion and corporate gathering. How healthy is your personal worship life? What might need to change?
2. Why do you think genuine connection in the church requires us to take initiative rather than waiting for others to reach out? What holds people back from connecting?
3. The sermon states that "Christ is our model, love is our motivation, and God's glory is our goal" when it comes to serving. How do these three elements protect us from serving with wrong motives?
4. Charles Spurgeon said, "Neglected prayer is the birthplace of all evil." That's a strong statement. Do you agree? What does it reveal about the importance of prayer in the Christian life?
5. Giving is described as a "sacrifice" and an "act of worship." How does viewing giving through this lens change our attitude toward financial stewardship?

John 20:19-23 - Being Sent

1. In verse 21, Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." What does it mean to live as someone "sent by God"? How should this shape your daily life?

2. The disciples were locked in a room out of fear when Jesus appeared and said, "Peace be with you." What fears keep Christians from living as sent people today?
3. Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (v. 22). Why is dependence on the Holy Spirit essential for the church's mission? What happens when we try to accomplish God's work in our own strength?

Five Things We Need to Develop

1. What practices or disciplines help you develop a sturdy, deep walk with Christ rather than a shallow one?
2. How does remembering Christ's hands and side (the cost of the cross) help us when we struggle with guilt and shame?
3. Do you see yourself primarily as someone "sent by God" with a message? How would your priorities change if you truly embraced this identity?
4. The pastor said, "If God is not here with us, we're just meeting together. If he is here with us, then we are unstoppable." What does it look like practically to depend on God's power rather than human effort?
5. Why is sound theology (understanding God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) essential for the church's health and mission?

Application and Commitment

1. The sermon describes Hickory Grove as wanting to be "less of a cruise ship and more of a battleship." What does this metaphor mean to you? How can we as individuals and as a church live on mission rather than simply going through religious routines?
2. How does the gospel—God's holiness, our sin, Christ's substitutionary death, and His resurrection—fuel everything we've discussed today? Why must the gospel remain central?