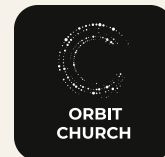


Connected With Others

2024-08-26 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Revelation 7:9-17

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Revelation 7 shows a crowd too big to count. They come from every nation, every tribe, every people, every language, and they are all saying the same thing at the same time. Pastor Matt's argument is simple: if that is what heaven looks like, a church should expect it now. But diversity is not automatic, and it is not comfortable, because nobody in the room grew up the way anybody else did. It takes asking real questions and giving up your own preferences. God moves where that is embraced.

To get started

- What did church look like where you grew up, and how different is it from here?

Looking back at the message

The charismatic-versus-traditional example is a safe entry point into a harder subject.

- 1 Pastor Matt described getting complaints from two directions in the same week: one group wanted more energy in the worship room, another wanted less. Which side would you have been on, honestly?
- 2 Pastor Matt admitted he prayed for a diverse church without ever thinking about how hard diversity would be to live with. Where have you prayed for something without counting the cost?
- 3 You cannot actually know someone different from you without asking real questions and giving up some comfort. When did someone do that for you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Revelation 7:9-17. Notice what they have in common and what they do not.

- 4 Read Revelation 7:9-10. What differences does the crowd carry, and what is identical about all of them?
- 5 Verse 14 says these people came out of great tribulation. What does that detail add to the picture?
- 6 Read Galatians 3:28. Paul lists lines the world draws: Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female. What does he say happened to those lines in Christ?
- 7 Read Philippians 2:3-4. Value others above yourselves, Paul says. What does that actually require in a room full of different people? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

This lands both interpersonally and about church culture. Keep both in view.

- 8 For someone from a different background to feel at home here, somebody's preferences have to give. What preference of yours would it be?
- 9 Who do you find hardest to connect with, and have you ever asked them a real question about their life?
- 10 Where has a difference in background, in age, culture, money, or upbringing, caused friction for you recently?
- 11 What assumption have you made about someone that you have never actually checked?
OPTIONAL

The group together

A small group is where preferences collide fastest. Say that plainly.

- 12 Look around this group. How similar are we to each other, and is that a strength or a limitation?
- 13 What could this group change so that someone from a completely different background would feel welcome on their first night?
- 14 What is a question you could ask someone in this room that you have never asked?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What preference will you set down this week so someone else can be included?

You might pray about

- For patience with people who are not like us
- For a church that reflects what heaven looks like
- For humility to ask rather than assume