

Discussion Guide for Living Hope: Part 15

1. Read Acts 4:13-37 and review the sermon outline.

What parts of Sunday's lesson did you find helpful, enlightening, unclear or troubling?

2. Truth: The first church had an amazing evangelistic impact and persecution quickly followed. As persecution began and escalated, the church resolved to please God rather than man no matter what. They resolved to maintain their commitment to Jesus, each other, and the mission.

In Acts 4:13, what was it that shocked their opponents?

What tactic of persecution do the opponents of the church begin with in 4:18?

How do you see censorship of the Christian message or Biblical values being censored today?

What are some areas of Christian belief and practice that unbelievers are now demanding you choose between pleasing God or man?

Since there are specific Christian truths under attack, what are some ways that we can prepare to give a clear and convincing answer or defense?

What are the potential consequences of holding counter-cultural beliefs in our current setting & are you willing to pay that price?

How do you think your resolve to "please God not man" might effect the more timid Christians around you?

How do you think your resolve to "please God not man" might effect the unbelievers around you?

Most importantly, how do you think your resolve to "please God not man" might effect God?