

UP, IN, OUT:

- If you were a non-Christian visiting VCC for the first time what do you think your thoughts would be about the following aspects of Sunday morning: pre and post service hangout time, welcome / announcements, prayers, singing, preaching?

OPEN:

If you could quit your job and be a full-time preacher but still get all the same pay and benefits, would you do it? Why or why not?

DIG:

- In this chapter, Collin makes the case that the preaching of God's Word should be the central part of a worship gathering.
 - Do you agree? How is this supported or contradicted by the New Testament?
 - Have you been in churches where something else was the main thing?

P.59 *"The Word is the basis but also the limit of the sermon."*

- What does Collin mean by this? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- The top paragraph of p. 60 describes the "scribes" of today who would "preach" something other than the "letter delivered by the mail carrier." Why do you think a preacher would focus on such things instead of the Bible?
- The top half of p. 61 describes a tension felt by preachers. What do you think about this?
- P. 62 *"Then you enter a virtuous feedback loop. The more preachers help you know and love the Word, the more you develop that taste for yourself, and the better taste you develop for meaty preaching."*
 - Has this happened for you? If not, why do think it hasn't?
- P.64 *"Preaching that moves sequentially week after week through verses and chapters of the Bible also lets God, not the preacher, set the agenda... God's agenda does not neatly align with ours."*
 - What are the pros and cons of "verse by verse expositional preaching" compared to topical preaching?

REFLECT:

- Based on what you've read in this chapter, and what you understand the purpose of preaching to be, if you could give Pastor Nick one piece of helpful feedback (encouraging or critical) concerning his preaching, what would you say?
 - Outpost leaders, please consider compiling these answers and submitting them to Nick.

APPLY:

- In this chapter, Collin says that Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is the best example of a sermon from the best preacher ever. This week, read through the Sermon (Matthew 5-7) a few times and spend some time praying about what hits you.

PRAY: