

# ASK AWAY: Real Questions. Real Answers

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Preacher: Pastor Patrick Dailey

[0:00] Welcome to Ontario Community Church. I'm Pastor Patrick Daly, and you're listening to a special Ask Away episode. Today is a little different from a normal sermon. This is a question-and-answer format. Real questions, real answers.

And during the recording, you'll even hear my wife, Amber, join me as we respond to questions together. Some of the questions are theological, some are practical, and some are personal. But our goal is simple, to keep Christ at the center, to pursue clarity, and to grow together. All right, let's begin together. Well, good morning, everyone. We are doing things a little bit different today, as we have been just going through our mission and vision.

We've been going through just all sorts of things with the new year. Our annual theme being Blessed Are the Peacemakers. And we've been... And we've just been really going through a process of just identifying who we are as a church.

And it's just, there's been a lot of questions that's been going on, and it's just been really, really rewarding. It's, I'm really grateful for you guys to submit the questions that you have.

[1:20] And some of the other questions we put on are questions that we have commonly gotten in the two and a half years that we've been here. Some that we get are a little more, some are pastoral, some are more about children's ministry, some are about family.

And so we just wanted to take some time to really just respond to some of the questions here that we have. And so what I'd just like to do is, I'd like for us to open in prayer, and then we'll just go ahead and get started in our time together.

And so, Father God, we thank you for this time, this opportunity for us to gather together. We recognize that this is not a typical sermon. This is more of us responding to questions that have been submitted by the congregation and the community as well.

And we just pray that this will be a good opportunity for us to respond, for us to respond in wisdom and clarity. And we just pray for everyone who is here in person and those who are tuned in online, that this message will just, these answers, these responses will be made clear and on ears that can hear and understand.

And we're just grateful for this church body. We're grateful for this congregation. And you have given us just a wonderful task to be able to preach the word and to be present with this congregation and to be salt and light to the community.

[2:46] So bless this time together, and we just love you so much. And thank you so much. It is in the name of Jesus that we pray and we all say together, amen, church. All right.

So, again, today is we're just doing a Q&A session. We did this two years ago. It was actually in 2023 or 24 when we did that.

And it was more biblical-based questions, which naturally, you know, when a pastor comes on, you want to ask questions regarding scripture and whatnot. And it's still, it's a time for us to, as leadership for me as a pastor, and then I have Amber up here.

There are some questions regarding children's ministry and regarding just us as a family unit. We'll answer as clearly as possible, and we will just with grace and truth.

And if you guys have any other questions, feel free to just write them down and give them to us. If we have time, we'll get to any additional questions. We do have, I think, 15, 16 questions to go through.

[3:49] So, we're just, again, this is not a typical service that we do. So, if this is your first time, we typically open the Word, we observe it, right? We learn the lessons, and we learn what we need to do as Christians.

And so, we're going to go ahead and go into, I've titled this on here. It's the same title as we had back in 2024.

It's Ask Away, and it is real questions and real answers. If it wants to... All right, just give it a second in here.

Real questions and real answers, and this is basically the 2026 or part two of Ask Away. We're not going to have this every Sunday, but will be situations for us to go over things.

So, the first question that comes up, then, is... Let's start to the next slide, then, is... Does God help those that don't know Him?

[4:50] This is a common question that you get when regarding... What if they're not a Christian, right? How does God help at all, or what does that look like?

And what I put on this next slide here is that God shows kindness and help to all people. Now, what type of help that looks like is going to be different.

And you think of the creation of the earth, right? You think of the rain and the sun, right? And every day that you have life, that is a gift from God that is for everybody.

Now, when we're thinking of salvation and transformation, becoming more like the Lord, that is more exclusive for Christians. And there's a verse that's in Matthew 5, verse 45, where it says, He makes His sun rise on evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

So you think about the creation of the earth, like I'm saying, the sun, the rain, every day that we have is a gift from God. And that is going to be for the unbeliever.

[6:00] That's going to be for the believer as well. But when we're thinking of what God gives to us, that's going to be... Us as Christians, that is going to be very different.

And so it's important for us to know that with every gift that God gives the unbeliever or soon-to-be-a-Christian, it's an opportunity to see God's provision, to see that God does provide even for those that don't know Him.

So you think of how God is the God of abundance. He gives so many gifts and opportunities for us to know Him. And what an amazing God that we have that gives gifts even to those that don't believe Him.

It's an opportunity for them to believe. Right? You observe the earth. You observe the universe. You look at the sun, the sunrise and the sunset. You look at the mountains and the birds that are chirping in the air.

And it's supposed to be evidence of something that is much greater than that which is created kind of thing. And so there's a lot into that. Amber, did you want to...

[7:03] Yeah. And so as some of you might know, I have a background in biological and part of my classes was going through cultural and religious and that was one of the questions that would get asked quite frequently from a lot of my classes.

And so they were quite frankly, they would say, well, isn't that not fair that people in remote places may never hear the gospel message?

And so that was one of the things that I would hear frequently. But as Pastor said, there's kind of this divine revelation that God does send through beauty of the earth, through instances where people do come into contact with us that really displays God's power.

And quite frankly, a lot of people may not have heard the message yet. But they do... They say there's something that's just special. There's something that is great about this place or how there's miracles happening.

We don't know where they come from. And... And I would also preface that with that is why we are called to go out into all the nations as well.

[8:22] So we are called to go out and to share the gospel, share the news, get it translated for even the most remote places so that they can really have that deep relationship with God.

But they could very well come across God and an understanding of God in their own circumstance. And we can't put God in a box to say that he cannot speak divinely to those people in some way, shape, or form as well.

You have to think, not only is it nature that is speaking, right? You think of the heavens declare the glory of God, right? Or all of creation sings out to glorify God, right?

You have all of these verses throughout Psalms, Proverbs, just throughout Scripture that is testifying to the awesome power of God. Not only do you have it within the creation, but also through people, right?

Part of us is to share in the gospel message, right? The ministry of presence, speaking truth in love, all of these different ways to get people to see that there's something more than this earth, right?

[9:31] There's something more to this life. And it's just such a wonderful thing. It's a great question. Absolutely. Let's go to that next one. Question two, then, is does one have to be baptized and born again to be saved?

Now, this is a question I get all the time. I don't know about you, Amber, but I get that all the time. Because in Scripture, there are some verses where, for example, where it says, repent and be baptized, for example, right?

And then you have other verses that talk about, well, believe and be saved, and it can cause some confusion that happens, right? So I want to put the answer that we have on here, which says that we are—what's that next slide?

Is that we're saved by grace through faith. And baptism is obedience that follows that. Now, sometimes when you read certain verses where it says, well, repent and be baptized, it's kind of talking about, right, repentance.

We understand that as metanoia, the changing of mind, right? Our minds to be changed on who the Lord is. And through that repentance, through that metanoia, we come to believe in the Lord, right?

[10:42] And from belief comes the obedience, which is baptism. There are so many verses that talk about faith in God and believing in the Lord.

That is the core. That is the first—that is the most important thing. Now, does it mean you should never get baptized? Well, no, you should absolutely get baptized. And it's important for us to know that if we create baptism to be a requirement for salvation, it then becomes part of a workspace salvation, right?

What happens to those—and there are case studies of this where there are people who may be more allergic to water or they may not have access to water.

And it creates just this kind of strange situation that happens. And so, as Christians, in so many verses, it talks about believe in the Lord and be saved.

And I understand there are some people who have a different theological understanding where it may be more of their conviction to be baptized than by all means be baptized. But when we're talking about salvation, it talks about belief, right?

[11:48] Salvation is the gift of God, right? And it is received by faith in Jesus Christ. And so, being born again, if you go in the Gospel of John, where there's that conversation with Nicodemus, how can somebody be born again, right?

And Jesus answers by saying, that which is born of the flesh is born of the flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is born of the Spirit. And you have to look—I think it's John chapter 3 where it's talking about that.

It's important for us to realize that we are born in the physical realm, and there's also the spiritual realm, right? Being born again. And that occurs when we believe in the Lord, right?

Believing the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. And so, again, baptism, it is important. It is something that we should do after salvation.

And what you see commonly in the book of Acts is they'll believe, and then they'll then get baptized. And that's fine. I actually think that's wonderful. And a lot of churches that do that, they make a decision for Christ, and they're ready to get baptized.

[12:48] That's a beautiful thing to see. Many different churches have timing. Sometimes they might have baptism classes and things. But we must not make it where baptism becomes the requirement.

It is belief in God. Having faith in Him is so important. Yeah, and I just like to add a piece. Because I work with the children, they often ask me a way to get baptized.

And so, we don't typically baptized infants. But we do believe that when you have made that choice, you have professed your mouth and believe in your heart.

And then you can be baptized. So, I mean, really, as early as children can do that, they might find it more significant, especially when they're a little bit comforted.

And can really take to heart that. But I'm of the belief that when they're at five, and we're professing that Jesus is there, so we're at that. But we just don't typically do it.

[13:47] But if we're baptized, we think that's okay. Yeah, there's a lot of times where some churches will talk about, well, re-baptism and legitimate baptism. And we don't want to go so much into that.

But it's just important to get baptized. One way or not. And it's one final thing before we go to that next question. It's important for us to know that believing in Christ, receiving salvation, right, making that decision for Christ, that's a very personal thing.

Right, that's something between you and the Lord. That's very personal. And when you're ready to get baptized, that's something that you want to tell everybody. Share with your friends that now you're ready to make that public confirmation.

And so that's something that's... Yeah, exactly. It's a part of our way to think that if we are baptized in front of our friends, our family, they may not be at the meeting yet.

And so it opens up that conversation. What's going on? Where are you going in the water? Why are you doing that? So it's also a piece of that that is a beautiful...

[14:53] All right, let's go to that next question. So the question is, what do you say to a Christian who's concerned for their non-Christian loved ones who have passed away? And this is a very, very good question.

And I wanted to take a moment to pull up in Scripture. It's from Genesis 18, 25. It's actually a very, very good verse. If you want to turn your Bible there, that's fine.

If not, you don't have to. But what's very interesting is you have the scene of Sodom and Gomorrah, right? And it says in verse 22, men turned from there and went towards Sodom.

Abraham stood before the Lord. Abraham drew near. Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are 50 righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place of non-spirit or the 50 righteous who are in it?

And then verse 25, far be it from you to do such a thing. To put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked.

[15:56] Far be that from you. Shall not the judge of all the earth do what is just? And it's this question that's being asked here where we don't always know the heart of someone.

Now, we can see the outward expression, right? We can see the actions of people, right? Someone who has a heart of bitterness. We can see that. We can see the anger and the animosity that people have towards other people.

But what's so important is that towards, in the course of someone's life, how God may have revealed himself to a person, we don't know that.

And so we have this hope. That question that gets asked, it comes from a place of love. Love for someone who, you may not have seen the evidence, right?

You may not have known them as a Christian. You may have known them as someone with a heart of a stone, right? Or a really cold heart, as it were. And we honor that. But it's important for us to know that we place our loved ones into the hands.

[17:01] Right? And God knows the heart. We trust in the character of God. Especially when we don't have all of the information, right? How many of us know every thought in our own minds, right?

Sometimes we wrestle with our own thoughts. And so when we think of someone that has lived a life that is a non-Christian, we don't know their heart. It is only God that knows that. And so I want to give these words to you.

We grieve with hope. And that's so important for us, right? We grieve honestly. And we are not hopeless, though. Because it is God who will.

He knows. He knows you better than you may know yourself, right? He knows you better than a family member would. And so we trust in God. And we give our loved ones into the hands of God. And this is not... We have to know that from those verses in Genesis that God is just and God is merciful. So part of it is we can't even fathom the mercy of God on one end or God's justice.

[18:05] And at the same time, we may not understand a person's heart. How many of you have may known somebody who has a hard shell but a soft inside, right?

I mean, I'm sure we could all raise our hands and know someone who's like that. Maybe you yourself are like that. We just don't always know the heart. And that's so important for us. So when there is a loved one, we have to offer that to the Lord.

And so that's very important. And if you have had a loved one who has passed away, I mean, I'm here for you as your pastor. You can always talk to Amber or anyone from the board.

We can pray with you. And this is not an easy question. You know, we're in our third question. And that's a heavy one. Yeah, and I think we have to be mindful of how we interact with people who are greedy.

And it's something that sometimes our words are meant to try to help someone get through that. But they actually become a lot more harmful.

[19:07] That might work, well, they're not going to heaven. You know, they were such a wicked person. It's really not our place. God is the ultimate judge. And he knows our hearts.

He knows their hearts. And so we have to check ourselves in how we respond to someone who's grieving. Because all of us are around people who might be going through those.

And sometimes we do it as a way to relate. Or, oh, yeah, my grandfather just died. And he was a wicked man. Or, you know, we try to relate. But we be mindful. The scripture says to us to be mindful.

It's slow to speak, right? To listen. To hear where they're coming from. And comfort them without necessarily pushing on what we believe to be about their problems.

And certainly with the loss of any family member. I mean, the last thing you want to do is be like, well, they're in hell. You don't want to do that. You want to comfort them and be present with them.

[20:11] Because at the end of the day, you don't know. You really don't know their heart and what they have been through. The people that have interacted. Every single person that interacted with their life. It's certainly possible that someone planted a seed that was there.

So. And you're speaking as the person. Yeah. To the living. And you have a profound effect on how their faith developed as well. Let's go to the next question then.

So it's why do you partner with the secular community? Now this is one. This is a question we've gotten a few times. Where it's so.

It's important for us to recognize that. Jesus calls for us to love God and to love us. To love our neighbors. There's a verse in Jeremiah 29:7.

Where it talks about seeking the welfare of the city. And pray to the Lord on its behalf. And it's so important for us. You know. The church is a safe place.

[21:19] For us to come together. Encourage one another. To grieve together. To be present with one another. But it's also important for us to be salt and light for the community.

That doesn't mean we are compromising our beliefs. It means that we are representing Christ when we go out in the community. Because let's be honest here. Is anyone 100% never interact with anybody?

I mean maybe if you're alone on an island I suppose. Right? But more often than not you're going to interact with somebody. Right? And how are you representing Christ with every interaction?

Whether that's at Dutch Brothers. Right? Whether that's at Walmart or Albertsons. Right? Or you're going to Walmart. How are you representing Christ? And that's so important in that.

Right? And we partner with these secular organizations. Because it's the common good. So I think of building healthy families.

[22:19] I think of FACE. I think of the Treasure Valley Relief Nursery. A lot of them they are focused on having strong and healthy families.

That's something that is very important.

That we as the church we value. Now how they help families might be a little bit different. We have the spiritual side. Right? We have the biblical and scriptural side.

Right? The ministry of presence. For them they may have evidence based or science fact or different ways. Different techniques. But it's so important that when we are out in the community. We can build relationships. We can. It's really. We're focusing on. You think of how Jesus dined with sinners.

Right? How he was present with all of these different people who are worldly. Or secular as it were. Right? Well he was there to be present. And as we go further on in these questions.

[23:18] We believe in this idea of friendship evangelism. And the ministry of presence. Where it is about building relationships. And when the proper time is right. You don't force it. When the time is right.

Then you share. In who Christ is. It's not force. It's by waiting upon the Lord. Waiting on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

And you have to think families. They need support. They need presence. And so we partner with them to. Because we value families. But also. That's part of our mission.

Yeah. When we first moved here. We've been doing ministry for many years. So I thought. Oh. Just do the same things that I've always done. You know. I have some events.

And different things. And very quickly. I was humbled. By the amount of resources. Organizations. That are in our community.

[24:15] There is a lot going on. And actually. We were talking about it. In our class this morning. That we live in a post-Christian world. That might seem very strange. For some of these. Because we were raised.

In the Christian era. In the Christian church era. Where the church really dominated. A lot of life. Social life. A political life. Just everyday interactions.

We're really centric. Around church. But our world has changed. And our world has progressed through. And a lot of things in our community.

Are going to happen. Whether or not. We show up. Or not. And so I quickly learned. That you've got to be where the people are. Because they're not going to step through these doors.

Unless something drastic happens in their life. Or. Or. By friendship with the people. By just being there with one another.

[25:11] Seeing how you live your life. And so. I put. My. My children and myself. We went to. Building healthy families. We went to. A lot of these activities.

And I met other moms. I met other families. And. Very. Seldom. Did I. Reveal. I'm a pastor's wife. I've got a church.

You know. I thought. I was a selder. But. When the questions. Hey. I can't lie. So. I tell the truth. And I tell. Yeah. I'm a pastor's wife. I do children's ministry. And it just.

Opens up doors. That are more authentic. That are more. Real. That says. Yeah. My kids. Run around. And just like. You are not.

Perfect. And you're welcome. You're not perfect. With me. And know that Jesus loves you. And so. That was really. What kind of. Shifted that. And the church already had these relationships.

[26:07] Built in. When we came. You guys were already supporting. CDCRN. Not at the time. You guys weren't supporting. Building House and Families. But now we are. But there's a lot of other organizations.

That you guys were already supporting. And you guys have. Joined in partnership. With each other. At the food pantry. You get to know people.

You serve alongside them. People love. To be in community. With one another. They love to serve together. And when those. Moments happen.

It's the most organic thing. That really. That really. Shows the love of Christ. Before we go to question five. I think. Just as people ask. Why do you partner. With the secular community.

How often. The secular community. Will ask. What are you guys doing? You're from a church. What do you. What do you want from us? And it's. It's. Very standoffish. But.

[27:02] It's. I'm here to serve. I'm here because I value families. And I'm no different. I'm. No better than you.



And we are to be a light for others to come to Christ, right? It's important for us to know that the Lord invites all of us, no matter what our background is, no matter how sinful we are, no matter how much in darkness we are, there's still the call to come to the light.

[32:01] And so, as far as I'm concerned, you are welcome to, no matter what kind of sinner you are. There's a joke that I hear every so often where it's name a place that's full of sinners, right?

I think a family feud. And when the number one answer was the bar. I'm like, a bar in the church? Like, why is the church? I think the church was like the third one in the list here.

I'm like, what in the world? The church is full of sinners. Sinners that are in need of a Savior.

Sinners that are in need of direction in their life and divine transformation.

That's so important. And this is just a place for us to come together no matter what your backstory is. And that's the beauty of this place. We'll just go ahead and just keep going.

Going to question seven, I have to thank certain people. I'm looking at you, Matt. As I hear you're speaking at Baylor University on AI.

[33:02] Is this for the church? And the answer is yes. I am presenting at Baylor University at the end of the month on artificial intelligence. And I'm just going to go over this real quick.

AI is a tool like any technology that we steward. And I'm speaking on behalf of Ontario Community Church for others, leaders to learn from. We have used AI to see what it can and cannot do.

In fact, that's why I have this next slide. This is kind of our congregational. This is part of what I'm presenting here. And that it's that scripture remains the source and the authority, right?

And we turn to the word of God. Amen? Right? That's important for us to know. And number two is that AI may help us but it may never replace the word, right? With all these prompts and these generations that happen from AI, it can be overwhelming but it must never replace the word of God.

The third thing is the church must discern and steward AI. Just be mindful of what it is and what it generates. What kind of images? What kind of videos? What kind of answers? It's no different than how you discern conversations that you have with people.

[34:09] And then finally, ministry requires human and spiritual presence. I put that on there because I kid you not, there are churches that have AI ministers and they don't forget.

And I don't know about you, a computer that doesn't forget doesn't sound good to me, right?

Especially if I'm pouring out a lot of personal information kind of thing. So when we think of ministry, right, it requires human presence but also spiritual presence, right?

We have the Holy Spirit that is with us and we also have people, humans that minister. So that's very, that's the gist of that. I don't want to go too far into that but this is for the church, for Ontario community but also for the collective church to have a framework in how they use AI.

Let's go to the next one then. Question eight. How do you handle recent events? Now this is one that I really, I wasn't sure about putting on here because let's be honest here, there's a lot of recent events that are going on.

There's a lot of violence, a lot of confusion, misinformation, and debates and then it goes on and on, right? And I put on here as the response is that we respond through prayer, discernment, and scripture.

[35:24] We could spend days if not weeks going on and all the current events that are happening in our world but it's important for us to know that we pursue peace, truth, and doing good in the name of Christ.

Just as it says in Romans chapter 12 verse 18, if possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Or in Romans 12 21, do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. It's very important for us to know, right? And I know whenever I have any sort of news thing that goes on, I have to really pray about it and think very often the media will try to, you might have heard the word rage baiting, right?

Just trying to get you built, right? Get you angry, right? Get you warped up. And then there's also the truth of things that are happening. But it's important for us, we see that a lot of evil people and a lot of evil things that are happening, that's why we trust in the living God.

we trust in him and not to be afraid but just double down on him. Now, question nine. So this is a classic if I have a dollar for everybody that asks this question, right?











And we're so grateful for this congregation, for this church body, and we're so grateful for your son, Jesus Christ, being the way, and the life. And all of these things, we pray in the name of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith, and we all say together, Amen, church.

Amen. Thank you for joining us for this Ask Away episode from Ontario Community Church.

If you listened today and you heard Amber and I working through questions together, I hope that it encouraged you to remember, questions are not a threat to faith. When we bring questions to the Lord with humility, they can become a pathway to growth.

If you'd like to follow up, need prayer, or want to get connected, visit our website at [OntarioCommunityChurch.org](https://OntarioCommunityChurch.org). You can also find sermon notes and resources at [sermons.OntarioCommunityChurch.org](https://sermons.OntarioCommunityChurch.org).

[58:22] May the peace of Christ rule in your heart. May you grow in wisdom and discernment. And may you live and love like Jesus. God bless you, and thank you for listening.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.