

# Q & A with Kevin Minchey

## 5 Questions:

1. **What are the essential doctrines of the faith?**
2. **What is your favorite scripture and why?**
3. **What do you see as the greatest challenges facing the church today?**
4. **What changes do you think ILPC needs to make to be effective in Hendersonville?**
5. **Describe your vision for the future of ILPC.**

### 1. **What are the essential doctrines of the faith?**

The 2000 edition of the Baptist Faith and Message, to which I subscribe completely, provides a great starting place for discussing essential doctrines. My understanding of the fundamentals of biblical Christian doctrine are as follows:

- There is one God revealed in three persons: God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Jesus is the sinless Son of God, born of a virgin.
- Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins
- We are saved by the grace of God through faith in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross
- Jesus was buried and rose to life on the third day.
- Jesus was seen by many witnesses and ascended to Heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for believers.
- Salvation is for all who call upon the Name of Jesus
- Once born again, the new believer is indwelt with the Holy Spirit and gifted by Him for service in and through the church.
- The Bible is the perfect, God-breathed, inspired Word of God. The human writers of the Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write what they wrote, and the Holy Spirit has preserved the Word of God to this day.
- The Church is made up of all baptized believers who have repented of their sins and put their trust in Christ alone for salvation. Salvation cannot be lost because it cannot be earned.
- Jesus is coming back on a Day no one knows but the Father. He will return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and bring everything under his dominion. The present heaven and earth will pass away, and all things will be made new.
- Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and all who belong to Christ will dwell with Him forever.

### 2. **What is your favorite scripture and why?**

I have narrowed it down to two passages I quote and meditate on each morning along with a collection of others:

- From the Old Testament Nahum 1:7 *“The Lord is God, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who trust in Him.”* This passage came to me during an extremely difficult time some years ago. It is a great reminder of who God is, where He is in the difficult days, and that He sees and knows those who trust Him.
- From the New Testament Galatians 2:20 *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* This passage came to me in 2000 when I was driving from a hospital visit out of town. I felt impressed to memorize it during the hour drive home. It has been a memory verse I quote in my prayer time each morning. This passage is a reminder to crucify my flesh daily and walk by faith in the risen Christ.

### **3. What do you see as the greatest challenges facing the church today?**

- 1) Lack of love & unity. While there will always be differences of practice among believers, I am referring to the local church. Every time there is conflict in the local church the community is damaged by it. Jesus said in John 13:35 *“by this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* When the church demonstrates broken fellowship the witness of the church is compromised.
- 2) Holiness. 1 Peter 1:5 says *“but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.”* While we fail at perfection, this passage calls us to live a life set apart from the world. We are to look and act different because of Jesus who lives in us. The unbelieving world knows we are supposed to be changed by the Gospel but they see far too many examples of a double life in professing Christians, especially Christian leaders.
- 3) Prayerlessness. The normal church body is too busy and distracted to pray. I have never seen a great work of God in a local church that was not preceded by a time of earnest prayer and a return to Jesus as their first love.

### **4. What changes do you think ILPC needs to make to be effective in Hendersonville?**

As an outsider coming in, I do not necessarily see changes that need to be made. Change always happens but I want to emphasize I see so much that ILPC is doing well! I suppose I see a need to refocus on the core purpose of the church which is the Great Commission. We are to be about the business of make disciples if we are going to be obedient to Jesus Christ. The focus of all churches these past two and one-half years has been a world-wide pandemic. I believe now is a great time to refocus and reengage our church in reaching those no one else is reaching in and around Hendersonville.

### **5. Describe your vision for the future of ILPC.**

ILPC is a church that already has a great vision. The vision of the church is clearly stated in the mission statement: Christ-centered, compassion-hearted, community-driven,

conversion-focused. I believe vision can in part be quantified. We can envision more people coming to faith in Christ, more people attending worship services, more people involved in small groups, etc. I also believe vision can be cast qualitatively. We can envision a church that is multi-generational, known for specific ministries in the community, or one that is recognized for our stance on matters of spiritual importance.

My role as pastor regarding vision could be likened to that of an optometrist. It is my job to enable the church to see clearly what God is already doing around us and how we are to join Him. Early in my ministry I was blessed to participate in the Experiencing God study by Henry Blackaby and Claude King. My view of ministry, mission and vision radically changed from “what can I do for God” to “where is God at work and how is He inviting me to join what He is already doing?”

The purpose and direction for the local church comes from God because Jesus is the Head of the church and the Holy Spirit empowers us as members of the Body of Christ. Vision that begins with a man, a committee or a brainstorming session results in a changing vision every year or so. Instead of looking around to see what other churches are doing and trying to duplicate their vision here at ILPC, my role as pastor is to help the church see the need in our community no other local church is meeting. My role is to lead the church to engage and share the love of Christ with those no other church in the community is reaching.

If asked to paint a verbal picture of what I believe God wants to do at ILPC; I would offer these broad stroke statements:

- I envision ILPC as a church where the children here today would want to raise their children in the future.
- I envision ILPC as a church that is known for compassion and a place to find hope and comfort when life has been difficult.
- I envision ILPC as a church that sends people out into the community, the mission field both short-term and long-term, and into vocational ministry in order to take the Good News of Jesus to those who have yet had a chance to hear and respond.
- I envision ILPC as a church where people arrive early on Sunday morning with a sense of eager expectation of what God is going to do and linger in and around the building afterwards because they do not want to go home just yet.
- I envision ILPC as a church where the sanctuary seating fills up first from the front-center, to each side, and then towards the back because people want to “get a good seat.” Kind of like sporting events...
- I envision ILPC as a multi-generational church where young families who live far from their family will find mature believers who will serve as models for marriage and stand-in grandparent figures for their kids.
- I envision ILPC baptizing new believers each week.