

Questions to consider when reading Chapters 6 & 7

1. What positive images come to mind when you hear the word “home”?
2. How is our longing for home explained by the biblical narrative of creation, fall, redemption, restoration?

Creation (pages 95-96)

Fall (page 96)

Redemption (pages 101-102)

Restoration (pages 102-103)

3. [Jesus’] love can become more real to you than the love of anyone else. It can delight, galvanize, and console you.” (p.108)

How has Jesus’ love delighted, galvanized, or consoled you or someone you know?

4. “The ultimate purpose of [Jesus’ life and death] is not only individual salvation and pardon for sins but also the renewal of this world, the end of disease, poverty, injustice, violence, suffering, and death.” (p. 110)

In what ways can you be a part of God’s plan to renew all of creation? (see page 112)

5. Do you agree with Martin Luther that “religion” is the default mode of the human heart? In what ways can “religion” be an obstacle for us as we seek to obey Christ? (see page 115)
6. “Behavioral compliance to rules without heart-change will be superficial and fleeting.” (p. 119)

How have you found this to be true in your own experience? How then is real, lasting change possible? (see pages 118-119)

7. “There is no way you will be able to grow spiritually apart from a deep involvement in a community of other believers.” (p.125)

Why is this true? (See page 127)

8. The book mentions four things we need in order to have a foretaste of future salvation now--- prayer, service to others, changes in our inner nature through the gospel, and healed relationships that Christ can give. Which of these do you hunger for the most, and why?
9. In ancient times a feast had more dimensions to it than merely eating. It was a time to sing, dance, reunite with long-lost friends, renew relationships, celebrate community, and so on. What joys do you most anticipate at the feast of the Father?