

Questions for further reflection by participants (Dar es Salaam)

At the completion of the discussion in Dar es Salaam, the participants were challenged to mention one remaining question they have for further reflection, based on the conversations we had. From the mindset of listening to learn, in order to ask better questions, these are the questions the participants shared at the end:

1. How can the church help achieve true justice and equality in society?
2. Why have many spiritual churches lagged behind when it comes to offering mutual support?
3. What can the church do to change the negative perceptions of government leadership?
4. Why do so many people prefer miracles over Jesus Himself?
5. How can we achieve the church's goals for the community, especially for those with special needs?
6. What contribution can we make to help the community and the church address the challenges in Dar es Salaam?
7. Why do ministers of God criticise each other on social media instead of meeting to discuss and help one another?
8. What can be done to ensure the church embodies true love like Christ?
9. What can be done to restore the fear of God in people, as many seem to lack it?
10. Why do Africans love their communities more than they love the gospel?
11. What can be done to encourage mutual counselling and advice among church members?

Overview Summary (Takeaway for the Facilitation Team):

The questions raised by the participants reflect deep concerns about the role of the church in society, particularly in areas related to justice, unity, and spiritual growth. Key themes include:

1. **Social Justice and Equality:** Participants are concerned about the church's ability to lead societal change, particularly in promoting justice and addressing the needs of marginalised groups. This includes the church's role in fostering equality and addressing community challenges such as support for people with disabilities.
2. **Church Unity and Leadership:** There is a noticeable frustration with the lack of unity among church leaders, as seen in the question about ministers criticising each other on social media. Participants express a desire for collaboration and mutual support rather than division and public conflict.
3. **Spiritual Priorities and Growth:** Many questions touch on the issue of spiritual priorities — why people are more drawn to miracles than to a deeper relationship with Christ, or why the fear of God has diminished. There is a clear call for the church to refocus on fostering genuine spiritual growth and reverence for God.
4. **Community vs. Gospel Commitment:** Several participants raised concerns about the balance between cultural/community identity and the commitment to the gospel. The questions reflect a tension between traditional values and the transformative message of the gospel, prompting reflection on how the church can encourage a deeper commitment to Christ while respecting cultural identities.
5. **Practical Church Contributions:** There is also a practical dimension, with participants asking how the church can contribute more effectively to its surrounding community and how to strengthen mutual support systems within the church itself.

