

## Wonder what's on people's minds

Sometimes at church on Sunday, I'll look around and I'll think to myself, "Wonder what's on people's minds?"

I've got this theory (I don't know if it's true, or close to true), but what's on people's minds fall into about ten categories. I talk about them in the book.

1. **Primary Relationships:** If that's their marriage, they think about their marriage. If that's their boyfriend or girlfriend, they're thinking about that relationship.
2. **Family:** A lot of parents worry about their kids. Are their kids doing well, not doing well? Are they good parents? How do they know? Maybe they don't know. Maybe they got a child that's a little bit wayward, and they're worried about that and praying about that.
3. **Health:** Most of us either have a health problem or know somebody who has a health problem, and we're praying for them.
4. **Work:** There's a lot of people who are very unhappy in their work. There's a lot of people who are miserable at work. And so very often, that's a point of misery and a point of prayer.
5. **Money:** There's a reason Jesus spoke about money more than any other topic in the Gospel. We use money every day.
6. **Addiction:** Addiction will probably be the personal issue of our age over the next twenty to fifty years.
7. **God and Spirituality and Church:** People have questions. People have doubts. People have thoughts. People have good days and bad days, faithful days and unfaithful days. So, people do think a lot about God and spirituality and church and what happens when we die.
8. **Fear:** There are a lot of fears, all stemming from our central fear, which is, If people really knew who we were, they wouldn't love us. That's where the pretending begins, in that fear — the fear that if people really knew who we were, that wouldn't love us. And then out of that grows a lot of other fears. People come to church on Sunday, they're thinking about their fears.
9. **Hopes and Dreams:** We all have hopes and dreams for ourselves, for our family, for our country, for our church. And people bring their hopes and dreams to church on Sunday.
10. **I call it "the question:"** You've got a question that you're grappling with right now at this time in your life, and we ask God to give us some insight, to give us some light, to give us some profound, divine direction around our deeply personal question.

These are the ten things I think people walk into church with on their minds each week.

How are we acknowledging their pain and working to ease their pain, to cure their pain, to collaborate powerfully with God and his grace to lighten their burden?

Because everyone we meet is carrying a heavy burden.

By Matthew Kelly