

Questions for Lesson 20: God's Finest Design: The Church

1. What is the Church?

Answer: The people--not the building. This is a unique and beautiful concept. Matthew 16:17 and 1 Corinthians 3:16ff show a concept not generally recognized by the world.

2. Why do people reject the Church?

Answer: They have seen the inconsistencies of organized religion and the bickering and fighting among people who claim to be Christians. By "The Church" we mean what the Bible presents, not what organized religion presents as the church.

3. What is unique about the biblical concept of the relationship between God and man?

Answer: The burden of accomplishment is placed upon God--not man. We do not have to achieve to be accepted by God. God reaches out to man asking only obedience by man--not a level of knowledge or accomplishment. Religions that teach reincarnation put the burden on man, to reach Nirvana or whatever the goal is, and to be recycled until one does it on their own.

4. What is the purpose of prayer?

Answer: To benefit us (not God). To allow us to communicate with a reliable, loving being higher than ourselves.

5. What is meant by the statement "Worship is not a spectator sport?"

Answer: We do not worship to be entertained. We are to involve ourselves and participate in all activities of worship.

6. To what extent do members of the Church want entertainment in and by their preachers?

Answer: To a very great extent. Preachers are frequently hired or fired upon their ability to tell funny or emotional stories, rather than their ability to reach the lost.

7. How can we avoid the problem brought up in the previous question?

Answer: Follow the lesson by taking notes, outlining the discussion, reading each passage in our own Bible, changing the format to classroom-type teaching, etc. Worship needs to be planned around participation by all, not with the primary emphasis being to entertain.

8. Why do we give to the Church and why is this important?

Answer: God doesn't need our money. The giving is part of our growth as Christians. You cannot be a success and a stable person in life if you don't learn to find joy in giving.

9. Why is going to hear a sermon or to be part of a Bible class important to us as individuals.

Answer: We need to grow and to be encouraged--"to have our battery recharged."

None of us has “arrived.” We all have room to grow and be strengthened and motivated to be what God calls us to be. The hymn *Tell Me the Old Old Story* might be worth reading.

10. How can we improve the fellowship and love we have in the Church?

Answer: By making a conscious effort to spend more and more time with our brothers and sisters in Christ. This needs to be done both individually and collectively. Spending one or two hours a week with brothers and sisters in Christ is not a way to get to really know them.

11. Indicated below are several acts which God expects in obedience to his commands. Explain why each makes sense.

Answer:

Hear: If you do not know what to do, you cannot do it.

Believe: If you do not believe, you will not make any significant investment of time, energy, or money.

Repent: No change--no gain, spiritually. We must desire to be a new creature and begin a new life.

Confess: Anonymity will not win others.

Baptism: Beautifully symbolic of dying to sin and being raised a new creature, a total involvement, and a public emptying of oneself.

Life: If your life does not reflect change, the world will be unaffected.

Obviously a variety of other comments could be made on each one of these actions.