

Harvest

Evangelical Free Church

SERIES: Real Christianity in a Confused World • Lesson 7
For Adult Bible Fellowships and Small Groups Meeting July 26-Aug. 1, 2009

Join us in being
on mission with
God!

OUR VISION

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

Core Values

Truth
Love
Community



“God’s Model Home”

Ephesians 6:10-18

Getting Started

After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.

1. If you could change one thing about your body, what would it be? Why would you want to change that specific thing?

Thinking about the Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

2. Who makes up the “true church”? Why would it be important? What does it mean to be “justified by God’s grace through faith alone in Christ alone”? Is it important to emphasize the “alone”?

3. Regarding the true church, what is the ministry of the Holy Spirit? What is the ministry of Christ? As Head, why is it more accurate to refer to this as a Christocracy rather than a democracy?

Matthew 16:18
*And I tell you
that you are
Peter, and on
this rock I will
build my church,
and the gates of
Hades will not
overcome it.*

4. Is there much visible unity among true believers in your community? In what ways do you think the people of Harvest could grow in unity?

5. What do Matthew 5:23-26 and Matthew 18:15-20 tell us about maintaining peace and unity within the church? Why is this so hard for us?

6. Is it important for the “true church” to be “manifest in local churches”? Is there a difference between the “true church” and local churches?

7. If the membership of the church is made up of only believers, what should be expected of the members? What should be required of them in their personal lives, their jobs, the church, the community?

8. How does the imagery of “the body” change the way you view the church, your involvement, and your relationships? (See 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 4:1-16) What are some of the other imagery in Scripture used to describe the church? (1 Cor. 3:16,17; Revelation 19:6-8) Should this imagery change the way we “do business” and structure our local church? Why and how?

*Romans 5:6
You see, at just
the right time,
when we were still
powerless, Christ
died for the
ungodly.*



9. Is it important for the “true church” to be “manifest in local churches”? Is there a difference between the “true church” and local churches?

10. What are the two ordinances the Lord Jesus mandated? Please note these are mandated by the Lord Jesus! What does an ordinance mean? How is it they “visibly and tangibly express the gospel”?

11. Though the ordinances are clearly “not the means of salvation,” could they be a means of spiritual growth or sanctification? If so, how? What is the important connection between “genuine faith” and the fact that the “ordinances confirm and nourish the believer”?

12. Often the ordinances have been relegated to the place of unimportance or indifference in the life of the local church. What do the terms “mandated” and “celebrated” have to say to this trend?

13. How does Romans 6:1-11 help us correctly interpret the meaning of baptism? How does this increase the meaning of baptism in your understanding?



Reaching Up and Reaching Out

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14. Is there a proper way to be baptized (sprinkling or dunking)? Is there a proper time to be baptized (infant baptism or believer's baptism)?

Four horizontal lines for writing the answer to question 14.

15. Why is it important to celebrate the Lord's Supper? Is there a proper way to "do" the Lord's Supper? What is more important, the way we do the Lord's Supper, or the condition of our hearts as we approach the Lord's Supper? Why?

Four horizontal lines for writing the answer to question 15.

16. What does the Bible say about the way we should approach the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34) How does this change the way you should approach participating in the Lord's Supper?

Four horizontal lines for writing the answer to question 16.