

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
Sermon: Seeing Christianity through Societies Eyes
Sermon 14.03.09
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Small Group Study for Week of March 14-20

The Big Idea: Society uses glasses to view Christians. Christians need to acknowledge and accept societies criticisms, and learn the best way to respond authentically, if they are to be God's body on this earth. God wants us to be authentic and His witnesses.

Group Discussion: Read all of the statements below, citing some of the glasses society tends to use when looking at Christianity, and then answer the questions that follow.

1. Christianity is basically irrelevant to our lives: These glasses are saying that, Christianity is at best, just like any other philosophy or religion, and is basically irrelevant to day to day life.
2. Christians are hypocrites: These glasses are saying that many Christians say one thing and do another. Ghandi once said, "I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are nothing like your Christ."
3. Christians have an evil history: These glasses are used to point out the bloody history of Christianity.
4. Christians think they are better than anyone else: These glasses are used to state that many people get the impression when talking to Christians, that Christians see themselves as morally superior to society.

Questions:

1. What do you agree with in the above statements and how should we acknowledge the truths we see?
2. How would you respond to each of the above statements?
3. Why should we respond to the above statements?

How Christians Should Live in Today's Society

Group Reads: Romans 3:21-26

Every single person who is saved, the good and the bad, can only be saved by accepting what God has done by dying for them.

Discuss: Since we can't do anything to earn our salvation, our needing to say we are going to live one way and actually live another way, is not only hypocritical - it's legalistic.

Discuss: Society is not looking for perfect people, just authentic ones.

Question: How can I live an authentic life?

Group Reads: Acts 1: 1-10

Questions:

1. What is significant for us today, in that, even after three and a half years, the disciples still didn't have all the answers, and yet Jesus still wanted them to be witnesses?
2. What is a witness supposed to be and do?
3. A witness isn't better or worse than anyone else, and doesn't have to make anything up or pretend.
4. What are we called as Christians to be witnesses of?
5. What do these verses tell us the role of the Holy Spirit is to be to a Christian?
6. How can we be better witnesses?
7. What can CCCC do to help us become better witnesses? (Could the Small Group leader please compile the answers and give them to one of the Pastors or Elders)
8. Any other observations from these texts that are relevant to you?

Conclusion to the Big Idea:

Society looks at Christians through various glasses - some of which we need to acknowledge as true. God wants us to realise that since we are saved by His gift, not by anything we do. We can be both authentic and His witnesses. Only when this happens will society see Christianity for what it really is.

Question: What does God want me to do as a result of this study?