

Church History Discussion Questions:

Chapter 1:

1. Read Acts 18:12-15 According to this passage, how did the Roman rulers view the early church?
2. Read 2 Timothy 4:16-18 When was Paul probably arrested the second time? What was the outcome of Paul's trial?
3. Read 1 Timothy 2:5 This verse would have offended many Romans. Why?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 and Jude 1:12 How did the Romans understand the church's references to the "flesh" 'blood' 'brothers' 'sisters' and 'love-feasts'?

Chapter 2:

1. Why did persecution decrease during the late second century?
2. What did Gnostics deny about Jesus Christ?
3. How did Christians decide which NT books were authoritative?

Chapter 3:

1. When someone says “ God is blessing our church” what is usually happening?
2. It is easy to assume that growing churches are always “ being blessed.” Often that is true. But sometimes, God’s people may proclaim the truth with with numerically negative results. Read 1 John 2:19. What was happening in John's church?
3. In God’s kingdom, faithfulness matters more than numeric growth. During Constantine's reign, churches grew, but the message became diluted. How might some churches today trade purity for numeric or financial growth? How might our church be tempted to dilute God’s message for the sake of growth?

Chapter 4:

1. In AD 381, the First Council of Constantinople confirmed a creed. What do contemporary Christians call that creed?
2. What did One-Nature Christians believe?

Chapter 5:

1. Group Activity:
 - a. In the middle ages Christians condemned Muslims, Jews and other Christians. Name three religious groups with whom you disagree. Do you have compassion for them? Do you understand their basic beliefs?
 - b. On a piece of paper list several groups or individuals who you have a hard time understanding or having compassion for. Ask God to help you love them.

Chapter 6:

1. Group Activity:
 - a. Organize people in four groups
 - b. Give each group a paper with the title of the type of Christian mentioned in the chapter
 - c. Find two truths that Christians today can learn from that type of Christian
 - d. Write them out on the group paper and share with everyone

Chapter 7:

1. Group Activity:
 - a. Six balloons inflated with six names inside that we read about in the chapter
 - b. Pass the balloons around, if you have the balloon after one minute pop it and read the name to yourself.
 - c. Have the group ask questions to figure out who you are.

Chapter 8:

1. Group Activity:
 - a. Organize class into 3 groups

- b. Group 1: 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
- c. Group 2: Galatians 1:6-9
- d. 1 John 2:18-23
- e. Ask: According to these Scriptures, when should Christians divide?

Chapter 9:

1. How to Christians today try to transform institutions and fail to see changes in individual lives?

Chapter 10

1. In the 1700s, Deism was on the rise and many Christians embraced Deism. Many churches had abandoned the Bible's description of God. They adapted their beliefs to their culture. What false ideas about God are popular in our culture?
2. Why did these false ideas we've listed arise?

Chapter 11

1. Group Activity:
 - a. On large post it paper write at the top on of these 4 names: Lottie Moon, Hudson Taylor, C. H. Spurgeon, Amy Carmichael
 - b. Have students do research on the person they are assigned
 - c. Divide the group according to the person they have researched and have them share: an intriguing fact about the person, one way that the person moved beyond human boundaries and how Christians today can break similar boundaries

Chapter 12:

1. To what areas of your Christian life can you apply what you have learned through these studies?

“ In the history of the church the old may suddenly become new” Gavin White