



So now, what can the Church do...What does the Bible tell us to do?

Philip Aziz Centre

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What image is the church communicating to people outside of its doors? (ie. people living with AIDS)

The History of Philip Aziz Centre

How would God have us the Church respond in the midst of the HIV pandemic?

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you or surprised you.
2. Discuss this quote and how it challenges your thinking and action. *"The global HIV/AIDS epidemic is an unprecedented crisis that requires an unprecedented response. In particular it requires solidarity -- between the healthy and the sick, between rich and poor, and above all, between richer and poorer nations. We have 30 million orphans already. How many more do we have to get, to wake up?"* (Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General)

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. a) Who is the sower? What does the wheat represent? The weeds? The enemy? The harvest? b) Why does this parable so puzzle the disciples? c) Why is patience and tolerance toward unbelievers difficult for them (and for us)?
4. Read Matthew 25: 31-46. a) Does this story seem more like a parable or a prophecy? b) How are those who don't do the acts and those who do them similar? Different? c) Is the judgment note in this section consistent with your view of Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Read Luke 10:25-37. a) Does the lawyer seem to think he has passed the test in v. 28? How so? b) Why does Jesus answer with a story instead of a straight answer? c) How might one justify the actions of the priest and the Levite (see Lev. 21:1-3, Num. 19:11-22)? d) With whom do you most identify with in this story? Why?

SO WHAT?...

6. It is often our tendency to put sins of sexuality in a special category, though we ourselves are not exempt from being tempted. In light of this, how can we condemn others with such ease? Does the fact that AIDS is often sexually transmitted play a role in the church's response? How do you think Jesus would have us respond?
7. Is there a balance between the Great Commission and The Great Commandment? How do we know we're out of balance?

Rauni Salminen @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, January 23/30, 2005