

The Story Of Us



Part 2: The State Church (Remember When We Grew Apart?)



INTRODUCTION – LOSING OUR FIRST LOVE

Revelation 2:4-5

1 Samuel 8

In times of turmoil, we too often put our faith in _____.

- 1) _____ brings stability.
- 2) _____ brings respectability and acceptability.

CONSTANTINE –WHEN CHRIST’S BRIDE FOUND ANOTHER LOVER

KEY LESSON: Christ comes to us clothed in his _____.

Galatians 1:8

THE RESIDUE OF THE AFFAIR...

- 1) Attachment of Church and _____.
- 2) Confusion between _____ and _____.
- 3) The _____ of ministry.

LESSONS FROM OUR EARLY YEARS – ACTS 6

LESSON #1: The mark of a healthy church is not the absence of _____ but the presence of _____.

LESSON #2: All Christian service is equally “_____”.

LESSON #3: Wineskins must stay _____.

CONCLUSION – WHO ARE YOU TELLING?

A ministry of service is not a ministry of _____.

Home church questions...

WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing Sunday’s message, share the one thing that most encouraged or challenged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read Paul’s description of a healthy growing church in **Ephesians 4:11-16**. a) What should be the key role of spiritual leadership in the church as well as the role of all other members? b) What results should we expect to see when our church functions biblically? c) Notice that **verses 26-27** point out the danger of lingering anger. What measures could your Home Church take to prioritize unity in your group, knowing that there will sometimes be disagreements and offences? (Also see **Matthew 5:23-24**.)
3. The Jesus who Constantine says appeared to him told him to use the cross as the emblem of his military conquests. Read Christ’s real words on this topic in **Luke 6:27-38 & John 18:36**, as well as Paul’s warning in **Galatians 1:8 & 2 Corinthians 11:14**. a) How would you explain Constantine’s vision? b) Do you think Jesus meant for us to take his words in the **Luke** passage literally? c) How is our commitment to peace and love supposed to be obviously different to non-Christians? How might this difference be seen today, especially in light of the September 11th events and beyond?
4. Read Christ’s words on Christian leadership in **Mark 10:42-45**. a) In what ways do some churches today still follow a more “Gentile” form of leadership? b) In what ways could a servant-leader in the church obey this principle and still be a strong leader? Brainstorm practical examples. (And tell Bruxy if you come up with some good ones!) c) List some practical ways you could apply this servant principle in your family life, work or school life, and Home Church life.

SO WHAT?...

5. Read **Revelation 2:2-5**. How is your current “love life” with Christ? How can or should you personally apply Christ’s words to grow in your love for him by doing the things you did at first? Pray for each other for deepening personal intimacy with our Heavenly Husband.

BONUS QUESTION...

6. In what ways was Christ’s life a “ransom” (**Mark 10:45**)? Who was this ransom paid to and why?

Bruxy Cavey & Tim Day @ The Meeting House, Sunday, October 7, 2001