

One Church.

In Dialogue with the Bride of Christ

Week 2: Brethren In Christ (with Darrell Winger)

COMMUNITY IN UNITY – One Family

Ephesians 4:3; Psalm 133:1

OUR GOALS:

1. Actively (and not just theoretically) pursuing and experiencing unity.
2. Building appreciation through education and understanding.
3. Modeling friendly-family disagreement.
4. Deepening our understanding of the Gospel.
5. Helping people on the fringe find a new church that fits better.

BRETHREN IN CHRIST – Evangelical Anabaptists

- History...
- Theology...
- Structure...
- Style...

A DIFFERENT TAKE ON – Holiness / Peace / Simplicity

- *Holiness...*
Acts 1:8; Romans 8:1-13; 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25;
Ephesians 3:14-19; 5:15-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- *Following Jesus...*
Matthew 7:24-27; John 16:12-15; Acts 1:8; 1 John 2:3-6
- *Pursuing Peace...*
Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 6:27-36; John 18:36; Romans 12:9-13:7
- *Living Simply...*
Luke 12:22-34; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 4:28; 1 John 3:17

LOOK TO THE BOOK – 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

A biblical church:

- 1) views people and creation differently.
- 2) has a ministry of reconciliation (restoring to friendship and wholeness).
- 3) is intentional about being/speaking the message of Christ.

TAKE OUT – I'll Have One Gospel to Go Please

NEXT WEEK... Salvation Army (with Terence Hale)

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. On a scale of 1-10, how important to you is it that The Meeting House is part of, submitted to, and supported by the Brethren In Christ? Why?
2. Bruxy often refers to the BIC as Evangelical Christianity's "best kept secret." Before The Meeting House, how much did you know about a) Anabaptists in general, and b) the Brethren In Christ specifically?
3. Do you think there could be value to the broader Body of Christ to learn more about the BIC and our distinctives?

Look to the Book...

4. Read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Paul has just finished mentioning the "judgment seat of Christ" when he goes on to talk about the "fear of the Lord" as motivation for ministry. But how does this fit into the teaching of **1 John 4:18** regarding perfect love casting out fear? Can **2 Corinthians 5:9** help resolve this apparent contradiction? C) Can you think of a time when you said or did something because the love of Christ compelled/controlled you? D) Paul explains that people missed Jesus because they assessed him "according to the flesh" (that is, looking at the surface rather than making a deeper assessment) and that this should motivate us to reject all such judgment. Can you think of examples when you have tended to relate to someone "according to the flesh" because of race, economic situation, gender, accent, appearance, intelligence, or denominational affiliation? What would it mean to exchange this way of relating to someone for a deeper way of seeing them? E) Recall that in our "Say What?" series we talked about an "ambassador" as someone who has adequate *KNOWLEDGE* about the kingdom they represent, the *WISDOM* to communicate what they know within the culture to which they are ambassadors, and the *CHARACTER* that supports rather than undermines their role. How are you doing in your knowledge, wisdom, and character? Rate yourself on each out of ten and talk about what you could do to grow in your weakest area.

The Great Debate...

5. Divide into two groups to debate the issue: According to **Romans 12:9-13:7**, in our world today, should Christ-followers ever be willing to kill people? Take 5 minutes to prepare, 5 minutes to debate, and then switch positions for another 5 minutes!

So What?...

6. If you are a Christian, the question is not whether or not you are an ambassador for Christ's kingdom, but whether or not you are doing a good job of what you already are. When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone? What holds you back from sharing it more? What are you going to do about it?
7. In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about storing up treasures that can be destroyed. What are some modern examples of wealth and treasure that can deteriorate in value by decay, destruction, or theft? Visit themeetinghouse.ca/splash to learn more.

The Meeting House | Sunday, June 19/26, 2011 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching