

One Church.

In Dialogue with the Bride of Christ

Week 3: Salvation Army (with Terence Hale)

COMMUNITY IN UNITY – One Flock

John 10:16

SALVATION ARMY – There's Something about a Man in Uniform

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

A DIFFERENT TAKE ON – Baptism & Communion

Baptism:

- Baptism is an adapted, not original, Christian symbol.
- “One Baptism” (**Ephesians 4:5**) = baptism by the Holy Spirit.
- Word ‘baptism’ used symbolically in the New Testament (**Luke 12:50; Mark 10: 38-39; Romans 6:3-4; John 3:5; Matthew 3:11**).
- Jesus baptized to “fulfill all righteousness” (**Matthew 3:15**).
- We are free in Christ (**Galatians 5:1**).
- Great Commission (**Matthew 28:19**).
- The apostle Paul did not regularly practice water baptism (**1 Corinthians 1:14-17**).

The Lord's Supper

- Breaking bread was a celebratory/commemorative meal (**Acts 2:42**).
- Remembering Jesus is an ongoing attitude (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**).
- Foot washing command interpreted symbolically (**John 13**). Why not baptism and communion?
- No mention of the Lord's Supper in Romans, Timothy, and Titus where church life is dealt with.

LOOK TO THE BOOK – Ezekiel 37:1-14 & Isaiah 58:6-10

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

NEXT WEEK... Special Guest – Philip Yancey

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

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Last week's “So What?” asked you to talk about the last time you shared the gospel with someone, and what you could do about taking more initiative. Did you follow through with anything you talked about since then?
2. What lessons do you think the Salvation Army teaches the Body of Christ?

Look to the Book...

3. Read **Ezekiel 37:1-14**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) In your opinion, what causes dry bones within the Church? C) How does worship prevent dry bones in our lives? D) How does service prevent dry bones at The Meeting House? E) This chapter is another example of God speaking through image and metaphor (like Jesus' life and parables) rather than precise theological language (more like Paul's letters). What are the benefits and dangers, strengths and weaknesses, of God revealing his word to us each way? Which way do you resonate with more? Can you think of examples of how God has spoken to you each way – both in Scripture and other means? F) The biblical theme of partnership is again evident in this passage (e.g., God asking Ezekiel to speak things into existence rather than doing it all himself for Ezekiel to passively observe). Have you sensed God wanting to partner with you to accomplish something specific recently? How have you responded?
4. Read **Isaiah 58:1-10**. A) Talk about what verse or idea stands out to you the most. B) Israel participated in religious rituals like fasting “as if” (**v 2**) they were sincere and righteous and were surprised God didn't hear their prayers. According to verses 3-4, what was Israel doing that made their fasting and prayers ineffective? C) Do you see these things in the Church in general today? In your life in particular? Talk about examples. D) Describe what the “fast” God desires might look like for your Home Church. And for your life.

The Great Debate...

5. Divide into two groups to debate the issue: *Baptism, like foot-washing, was a cultural practice used by the early church and Breaking Bread was less of a church ritual and more of an attitude when eating. Hence, both have limited value for believers today, and are not a necessary part of the Christian life.* Take 5 minutes to prepare, 5 minutes to debate, and then switch positions for another 5 minutes!

So What?...

6. Israel's life of serving others was always supposed to be their way of being the light of the world (e.g., **Isaiah 58:8, 10**), and Jesus wanted the same for his Church (see **Matthew 5:14-16**). Can you think of ways you have been this light recently? What is something you could you do this week to shine brighter?
7. **Summer Splash Question** - In **Matthew 6:20**, Jesus talks about storing up treasures in heaven. How does a person store up treasure in heaven? Visit themeetinghouse.ca/splash to learn more.

The Meeting House | Sunday, June 26/July 3, 2011 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching