

RADICAL REFORMATION

Week 1: *Anabaptists & Us*
Week 2: *Anabaptists & Scripture*

Week 3: *Anabaptists & Church*

Week 4: *Anabaptists & Peace*
Week 5: *Anabaptists & Mission*

APPETIZER: Radical Ideas About Church

1. Just as humanity experienced “the fall” through Adam and Eve, so the Church experienced a “fall” through Constantine.
2. “Church” is a voluntary association.
3. Scripture is best understood through community.
4. God’s will is best known through community.
5. Christians are not primarily consumers of grace (Catholic) or justified sinners (Protestant), but genuine “saints,” “new creations,” and members of the “body of Christ.”

John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 Peter 4:10

6. We keep the church pure through discipleship and discipline (called “the rule of Christ”), not imprisonment, torture, and execution.

Matthew 18:15-20

7. God is best experienced, and grace is best received, through small groups not sacraments or even Sunday services.

I believe that small groups are the best thing that has happened to the church since the Reformation. The Reformation returned the Bible to the people; small groups are returning ministry to the people.
~ Palmer Becker, *Anabaptist Essentials*

8. When the church becomes more of a family circle rather than an institutional hierarchy, women become equal participants.

DINE IN: The Body of Christ

**1 Corinthians 11:23-34;
1 Corinthians 12-14
Ephesians 4:11-16**

TAKE OUT: Are you willing to give & receive counsel?

“Are you willing to give and receive counsel?”

- Willing to *GIVE*?
 - Prevents us from being too *CASUAL*.
- Willing to *RECEIVE*?
 - Prevents us from becoming too *CONTROLLING*.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review Sunday's message. Talk about what most encouraged, convicted, or puzzled you.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **1 Corinthians 12:1-13; 14:12, 26**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. The Holy Spirit empowers us to say (and really mean) "Jesus is Lord." What's your story? When did you first begin to say and really mean that Jesus was your Lord?
 - c. What is the significance of the words "each one" in **12:7** and **14:26**? (Also see **1 Peter 4:10**.) How does home church fit with the kind of "church" described here, more than a Sunday service?
 - d. If home church is so much like New Testament church, why do you think The Meeting House continues to have Sunday services?
 - e. The Apostle Paul reminds us that God gives all of us spiritual gifts for the purpose of blessing and building up the rest of the church community (e.g., **12:7; 14:1-5, 12, 26**). Take turns in your discussion groups to identify and affirm the gifts that you believe God has given each of you to contribute to the Body of Christ. Talk about ways you have used your gifts in the past and/or are currently using them to bless others.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your regular huddle questions for discussion before prayer.

Quotes

Welcome back to our five-week series about our spiritual roots.

Today's topic...
Part 3: Anabaptists and Church

As Brethren In Christ, we are among the inheritors of Anabaptism.
~ E. Morris Sider

With the formation of the first Anabaptist congregation was revealed the genius of Anabaptism: it implemented what others only contemplated.
~ William R. Estep

The uniqueness of both the early church and the early Anabaptists was that they met in small groups where they confronted each other and made each other strong enough to confront the world.
~ Takashi Yamada

Just as water baptism is a public testimony of the Christian faith, so is the Lord's Supper a public testimony of Christian love.
~ Balthasar Hubmaier (Burned at the stake in 1528)

The bread and wine of the Lord's Supper is a sign of the community of his body, in that every member thereby declareth himself to be of the one mind, heart, and spirit of Christ.
~ Peter Riedemann (Died in prison, 1556)

True community begins with God. Our God, who lives in community as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, wants us to also experience the joys of close community!
~ Roberta Hestenes

Everyone has something to teach and everyone has something to learn.
~ Jessica Reesor Rempel

Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
~ Jesus