

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

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Week 46: You Can't Be a Church Without Christ - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Its geography plays a significant role in its culture. It was considered to be a “sailor” city at the end of a land and sea route which housed a Temple to Aphrodite atop a hill with more than 1,000 Temple prostitutes. Years before Paul, the philosopher Plato described prostitutes as “Corinthian” girls. Paul had a deep affection for the church, knew its significance to evangelism and spent much time there (three years). Similar challenges face church planters today who are led to plant churches in “tough” neighborhoods.

2. They were operating without Christ, in the flesh, not reading, preaching or studying God's Word. They blended into the world instead of being separated from it. They allowed many heresies to enter the church, thus watering the gospel down to be essentially ineffective. They were complacent in their sin.

3. Paul handled them with kid gloves, gently, yet with a firm disposition of the truth. He set out to teach them by word and deed, to guide them, to humble himself so as to demonstrate their new faith. Likewise, new believers in the church today may require more attention in their new journey with Christ. The ways of the world are still fresh in their minds and elder believers must often exercise extreme patience in their discipleship efforts.

4. Christ is returning for a “pure” bride (the church). We must promote purity as well as police it within the church. God judges those outside the church, we are called to “judge” those inside the church to maintain purity within its walls. As uncomfortable as it may seem, the church leadership must judge the actions of church members so as to reflect the pure image of Christ corporately.

5. We must become whatever is required to reach the lost. We must be sensitive to the lost and share the Gospel in different methods, in different places and in different cultures to be more effective in reaching the lost. We must use our ears more than our mouths, but deliver the truth that penetrates the heart of the lost.

6. God gifts His children with special abilities, talents and passions that He has foreordained to be employed within the church body. It is up to us to Discover, Develop and Deploy our gifts for the Glory of God within the body of Christ. That is where one will find true joy and happiness and purpose in life.

7. We must employ our God-given spiritual gifts wrapped in agape love as described in chapter 13. Unity can only exist in the atmosphere of pure love within the body. As Paul describes in verses 1-3, whatever we do, if we do it without love, it is ineffective and does not convey the Love of the Savior.

8. It's no secret that the purpose of God's Word is to introduce His Son Jesus Christ through progressive revelation in the Scriptures. Jesus is seen throughout the Old Testament scriptures as Jesus Himself proclaims (Luke 24:27). Paul allegorizes the Rock in Deuteronomy 32 as Jesus Christ who followed the Israelites through the desert.

9. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:13-14, if there was no resurrection of Jesus, then our faith is futile, worthless, ineffective and we are not saved from our sins. Jesus' resurrection (Luke 24:46; 1 Cor 15:50-58) is the very anchor of our faith. In 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 Paul informs us that Christ died and was resurrected according to the Scriptures (the Old Testament), demonstrating the ultimate power of God. (Reference Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:8-10)

10. Paul's emotions are adequately laid out in 2 Corinthians 2:1-4. Paul's beloved church was now under attack from false teachers purveying false doctrine and leading the flock astray. They had undermined Paul and his authority, damaging his reputation and position. He is angry and upset at the church leaders for 1) allowing these heretics to infiltrate the church, and 2) for believing their false doctrine.

11. We should all make it our aim to please the heart of God who desires our complete heart's devotion to His will. In order to do that we must know God and His will for our lives, seeking His favor and guidance.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

3. 1 Corinthians 15, especially 15:13-15 adequately explains why Jesus' resurrection is foundational to Christian's belief.

