

BIBLE CLASS INVITATION

Request: Why do you give an invitation at the beginning of your bible class as opposed to the end like most churches?

This is an excellent question and reminds us of the importance of certain procedures related to teaching the word of God. Sometimes these procedures seem normal to us but seem strange to visitors without adequate explanation.

The primary emphasis of the assembly of Doctrinal Studies Bible Church is teaching God's word for spiritual growth, training for ministry, and evangelism (2 Tim.2: 15; 3:16-17). Most churches that give invitations at the end are primarily evangelistic in their assembly.

This lesson will explain FIVE reasons for giving an INVITATION at the beginning of every BIBLE CLASS as opposed to the end of the class.

1. Our bible class begins with an invitation because we assume that two types of people attend: saved and unsaved.

If people attend who we are not aware of their profession of saving faith, we explain the importance of the gospel of grace salvation (Rom.1: 16; 1 Cor.15: 3-4; Eph.2: 8-9).

If we are aware of their profession of saving faith, we explain the importance of confession of sin for the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6: 19-20; 1 John 1:9; John 14:26).

Now let me explain why it is important to give these two invitations at the beginning of the class as opposed to the end.

2. In the case of the unsaved attending, we believe that they are under the 13 judicial charges of Adam's Original Sin (AOS) that prevent them from grasping basic spiritual truths.

Let me mention just 4 of these 13 and explain why it would be impossible for them to grasp spiritual truth.

- Spiritual death – Rom.5:12
- Spiritual darkness – Acts 26:18
- Natural man – 1 Cor.2:12-15 (HIQ minus SIQ)
- Spiritual Blindness – 2 Cor.4:3-6

The gospel is the power of God to save or deliver the unsaved from AOS the moment he believes (Rom.1: 16; 2 Tim.3: 15-16). They need to be born again to have the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit and SIQ (John 3:3-5; 16:7-11; 1 Cor.6: 19-20; Gal.4: 6-7).

We assume that those who attend bible class have positive volition (PV). Therefore we serve them first knowing that regular attendees will understand.

3. In the case of the saved attending, we believe they also come with positive volition (PV) but are in fact in one of three categories of the Christian Way of Life (CWL): spiritual, carnal, or reversional.

If he comes spiritual, he is mindful of importance of filling ministry of Holy spirit for cycling divine truth (John 8:32; 14:16-17,26; 16:13-15; Heb.4: 12).

If he comes to class carnal, he must be reminded of the importance of confession of sin for studying the bible under the filling ministry of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.3: 1-3; Rom.8: 5-9; John 14:26).

If he comes reversional (back-sliding), he has scartissue of soul and needs to reminded of the importance of basic spirituality for proper bible study (Heb.5: 11-14; John 14:26).

4. We instruct believers attending bible class to examine themselves spiritually regarding three categories of personal sins: mental attitude sins (MAS); sins of tongue (ST); and overt sins (OS) (1 Cor.11:28-31; Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:3-5)

MAS: anger, hate, bitterness, jealous, envy, arrogance, malice, selfish ambition, fits of rage.

ST: gossip, back-biting, lying, taking name of Lord in vain, putting people down, name-calling.

OS: rebellion, drunkenness, gluttony, adultery, fornication, stealing, discord, and factions.

5. We instruct believers to confess their personal sins according to 1 John 1:9 (homologeo).

The primary reason for confession of personal sins is to put off carnality and to put on spirituality (Eph.5: 18; Gal.5: 16).

The secondary reason for confession of sin is to be mindful of the teaching ministry of the FHS for spirituality (John14: 26; 1 John 2:27)

CONCLUSION

- We give an invitation at the beginning because we believe that a church age believer cannot pray nor study the bible under Spiritual IQ apart from the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim.3:16; John 14:26; Jude 20)
- We give an invitation at the beginning of bible class because we believe it is a reminder of the church age believer's priesthood function (1 Pet.2: 5,9; 4:7-11).
- We also give the invitation at the beginning because I believe that it is part of the responsibility of shepherding the flock of God (1 Pet.5: 2-4).