

TRUE SPIRITUALITY - Session One

Handout 1

Texts: Bible & True Spirituality by F. Schaeffer

In Preparation for the study “ Spirituality”

There is no required homework for this group study. However, participants will know in advance what the upcoming study-discussion will be. We will proceed through the book True Spirituality chapter by chapter. You may obtain a paper copy or ebook through CBD.com.

Like any instruction, we get out of it what we put into it. Those who read the chapters before our Sunday night 6pm sessions will benefit most. There will be benefit to those who attend and merely listen to the discussion.

People in this group will participate by providing (hiring?) child care, preparing coffee/drinks & snacks, setting up the study area, as well as self-preparation by reading in advance. All this is voluntary of course. Before attending, read chapter one in True Spirituality if you have acquired a book. Here are some definitions to help you understand the content of chapter one...

Terms

True Spirituality - synonymous with ‘true Christian living,’ as opposed to a form or outward religiosity/rules keeping.

True Christian - here Schaeffer is not talking about a merely born again Christian but a Christian in process of being sanctified.

Law - 1. Rules keeping for the purpose of proving self-righteousness. 2. A body of rules found in the first 5 books of the Old Testament.

Law of Love - Jesus’ way of living from the inside out; keeping the law by agreeing with the will and way of God as a way of living; love.

True moral guilt (or simply, true guilt) - distinguished from the feelings of guilt; objective guilt (in a legal sense).

Justify - not excuses, but paying a real penalty for real moral violation that satisfies the moral demand of a judge to the degree that nothing is left to owe or pay resulting in absolute standing of guiltlessness.

Sanctify - the process of transformation to conform to a new way of thinking and living; the preoccupation of disciples (becoming Jesus-like)

“Leap of faith” - believing in something that is not there; trusting in a non-object; putting faith in faith (Example: “Do I have enough faith?”)

Kierkegaard - Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher/theologian of the 19th century who proposed the concept of “leap of faith.”

“External world” - the world outside the mother’s womb.

New Birth - coming alive spiritually by means of faith in Jesus as Savior; “born again.”

“Mechanical way” - doing or not doing something regardless of what is in the heart (belief), just following a norm or rule religiously.

L’Abri - a training place for truth-seeking students around the world in Switzerland (Dr. Schaeffer’s mission station).

“Screen” - barrier of full understanding or awareness of what is really there.

libertine - a person who behaves without moral principles or a sense of responsibility, especially in sexual matters.

Covet - to want (sometimes desperately) something that one does not possess.

Naturalist - one believing in a mechanical universe without a Cause. Things just exist without any reason or known reason to exist.

Anti-supernatural - one who stands against a reason for existence beyond the simple knowledge that things do exist.

Nihilism - an extremely skeptical philosophy from the conclusion that there is no meaning in anything & things are not real anyway.

Agnosticism - belief that the existence and the nature of God is unknowable.