

A Different Gospel
Sermon Series by Rev. Michael Hudson
Discussion Questions

Session 1: The Nature of God

Romans 1:18-23,25; Galatians 1:6-9; Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Timothy 4:1

- 1) What do you think are the reasons for the coming split in the United Methodist denomination?
- 2) What is theological liberalism?
- 3) What does theological liberalism believe about God's judgment?
- 4) What does Rev. Hudson mean by, "A God without judgment is a God without justice? Do you agree?"
- 5) How is a theology of redemption greater than a theology of acceptance? Which does our church preach?

Session 2: The Nature of Man

Romans 3:9-18, 23-24; Luke 19:10; Isaiah 6:1-5; 1 Kings 19:11-13; Luke 5:8; 1 John 1:8-9

- 1) What does theological liberalism attempt to do according to Alister McGrath?
"Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the movement is its accomodationism – that is, its insistence that traditional Christian doctrines should be restated or reinterpreted in order to render them harmonious with the spirit of the age."
- 2) What does theological liberalism believe about the nature of humanity and is it in line with Scripture?
- 3) What is sin? *"Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world He created, rebelling against Him by living without reference to Him, not being or doing what He requires in His law – resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation."* – Question 16, New City Catechism
- 4) When was the last time you heard a sermon calling you to repent of sin? Offering forgiveness and freedom from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ?
- 5) Do you believe humanity is good at heart or bent towards evil and selfishness? Which side of the scales does the evidence tip?

Session 3: Jesus

Hebrews 1:1-4; Luke 1:34-35; John 14:6; Luke 2:49; Mark 2:7; Acts 3:16; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:15-20

- 1) Who do you say Jesus is?
- 2) What does it mean that Christianity and theological liberalism have the same vocabulary but different dictionaries?
- 3) What does theological liberalism believe about Jesus? What does it deny about Jesus?
- 4) Do all paths lead to God or is Jesus the only way?
- 5) What does our church preach and believe about Jesus?

Session 4: The Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Psalm 137:8-9; Leviticus 24:16; Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119; Hebrews 4:12; John 8:7; John 17:17; John 8:31-32; James 4:6,10; 2 Chronicles 34

- 1) What does theological liberalism believe about the Bible?
- 2) What does the UMC's Book of Discipline declare about the Bible in paragraph 104?
- 3) What is the problem with Adam Hamilton's approach to reading Scripture?
- 4) Rev. Hudson said our difference of belief regarding the Bible is the fault line of the church split? How is so?
- 5) Does our church sit in judgment of the Scriptures or do the Scriptures sit in judgment of us?

Session 5: The Mission of the Church

Romans 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Luke 19:10; John 3:3,5; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16-17

- 1) What does theological liberalism say is the mission of the church?
- 2) The mission statement of the UMC is "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for..." what? Does Jesus command us to transform the world?
- 3) Rev. Hudson says that theological liberalism wants the fruit without the vine, the kingdom without the King. What does he mean?
- 4) What does Paul say is of first importance in mission? 1 Corinthians 15:3-6.
- 5) Is our church ashamed of the gospel? Do we preach the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection or do we preach a different gospel?

Recommended Resources:

The Rise of Theological Liberalism and the Decline of American Methodism by
Dr. James V. Heidinger II

Christianity and Liberalism by J. Gresham Machen

Another Gospel: A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity by
Alisa Childers

This We Believe! Meditations on the Apostles' Creed by Dr. Timothy Tennent

Making Sense of the Bible by Rev. Adam Hamilton

Scripture and the Life of God by Dr. David F. Watson

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016

The Next Methodism: Theological, Social, and Missional Foundations for Global Methodism
edited by Kenneth J. Collins and Ryan N. Danker

www.globalmethodist.org