

The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way – Chapter 11

1. In the first paragraph the authors claim, “God has always wanted a people, a family.”
 - a. What are the key promises of God to Abram in Genesis 12:3?
 - b. What desires for the people of Israel does God speak of in Exodus 19:3-6? How is what he wants for them rooted in what he’s done for them?
 - c. Consider 1 Peter 2:9-10. How does it echo what you just read in Exodus? How does it extend similar promises to those who are in Christ?
 - d. Why do you think we’ve been so prone to think of Christianity in individualistic terms rather than what we see in these passages?
2. The authors make the audacious claim that “The way of holiness is a way of friendship.”
 - a. What signs do you see in scriptures like John 15:1-17 that indicate that friendship with God is possible?
 - b. How does 1 John 4:19 show us the relationship between God loving us, our loving God, and our loving each other?
 - c. What evidence for the truth expressed in the “wheel and spokes” illustration (p. 68) have you seen in your own experience?
 - d. Why do we have so much difficulty with friendship in church these days?
3. Original Methodism had three primary social manifestations.
 - a. Which aspect of our current life is most similar to the “Societies,” the context in which we meet each week to “read Scripture together, sing spiritual songs, and encourage each other in the faith?” How is that working for us?
 - b. Which aspect of our current life is most similar to the “Class Meetings,” in which we share about the work of God in our lives? How could we do better at this? What stands in the way of doing this?
 - c. Which aspect of our current life is most similar to the “Band Meetings,” in which we ask each other difficult questions in our quest to be holy? How could we learn to ask and answer these questions well? What are some of the things that currently keep us from doing this? (For example, do we trust each other and feel secure enough to open our lives to each other so deeply?)
4. Wesley described the original Class Meetings as being for those who “desire to flee the wrath that is to come.”
 - a. What “coming wrath” do you think he had in mind? Do we today believe such wrath is possible?
 - b. What does it mean to “flee” such wrath? Why would we want to do that?
 - c. Why is the wrath of God either hard for us to believe in or something we believe only a danger for other people?