

The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way – Chapter 5

1. The authors sum up the attraction many found in Wesley's message with the admonition to "Go further."
 - a. What do they mean by "go further?" Further toward what? In which direction?
 - b. What do you find attractive about this message?
 - c. How would people in our current culture respond to such a message?
 - d. What are the downsides of such a message? How could we fail to hear it as "good news?"
2. To achieve most things that matter, we need what the authors call a "reliable guide."
 - a. What are the two requirements for being a reliable guide?
 - b. What are some areas you've experienced where having a reliable guide makes a difference?
 - c. What happened in Saul's encounter with Jesus in Acts 9?
 - d. If we consider Ephesians 2:8-10 & 3:17 what are some key aspects of God's desire for us, that is, the destination he wants us to reach? What are important aspects of the way to get there? What "reliable guides" have you found to get you there?
3. There is a difference between freedom *from* something and freedom *for* something.
 - a. In what Christians call "salvation," what is Jesus setting us free *from*? How have you experienced that freedom? In what ways are you still yearning for that freedom?
 - b. In a similar vein, what is Jesus setting us free *for*? How have you experienced *that* freedom? In what ways are you still yearning for that freedom?
 - c. Which of the two kinds of freedom do we most frequently emphasize? Which do we put the most effort toward?
 - d. Why, in relation to both aspects of freedom, do we usually settle for where we are, without a desire to "go further?"

4. Holiness was a big deal for Wesley and the early Methodists. He once described the mission of the Methodist movement as “spreading scriptural holiness across the land.”
 - a. What is “scriptural holiness?” What substitute forms of “holiness” have you seen or experienced?
 - b. What experience do you have of talk about holiness in church? What’s been attractive about it? In what ways has it failed to be attractive?
 - c. Why do you think the world is more inclined today to mock “holiness” than to desire it? What can we do to reverse that way of thinking?
5. The authors point to Wesley’s teaching on a “sequence” and set of “steps” toward holiness.
 - a. What’s the difference between the sequence and steps in this context? Why do we differentiate the two?
 - b. What are some of the steps toward becoming holy that you are currently aware of?
 - c. Where are you in the process of becoming holy? Do you want to be holy? Do you have a clear understanding of what it might look like in your life (the destination)? Do you have a clear understanding of how to get there?
 - d. What is your next step in becoming holy?
 - e. What are some things you’ve seen or experienced that impair the quest for holiness? How can we overcome these impediments?