

Church Q&A Session 6 - Outline

Question 1: Why don't we use the Ethiopian Bible?

Timestamp: 00:00:12

Answer Summary:

- The Protestant Bible contains 66 books; the Ethiopian Orthodox Bible contains 81 books
 - The Roman Catholic Bible has 73 books; the Eastern Orthodox Bible has 75-81 books
 - In 1604, King James authorized 47 men fluent in Greek and Hebrew to translate the Bible
 - The Ethiopian Orthodox Bible contains books with inaccuracies and theological issues
 - Some books in the Ethiopian Bible focus heavily on angels and demons
 - Several books in the Ethiopian Orthodox canon contradict what Jesus preached
 - The 66-book Protestant canon has been consistently recognized as authoritative throughout church history
 - We should take the 66 books as the infallible Word of God
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Question 2: How different is Eastern Orthodox from Pentecostal and other denominations of Christianity?

Timestamp: 00:08:34

Answer Summary:

Core Similarities:

- All believe Jesus is the Son of God
- Salvation comes through Jesus Christ and His blood
- Belief in the Trinity
- Belief in the resurrection of Jesus

Key Differences:

Eastern Orthodox belief in Theosis vs. Christian belief:

- Eastern Orthodoxy teaches "theosis" - that you will become like God
- Christianity teaches we will never become like God
- If we could become like God, we wouldn't need God

Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts:

- Pentecostals believe in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and manifestations of spiritual gifts
- Eastern Orthodox do not emphasize this; instead focus on closeness to God through sacraments

Salvation and Works:

- Protestants believe salvation is by faith alone; faith produces works, but works don't save you
- Eastern Orthodox and Catholics believe salvation involves both faith AND works
- Eastern Orthodox often take communion weekly and believe you risk losing salvation if unable to partake

Sacraments:

- Eastern Orthodox emphasize the importance of sacraments like communion and baptism in becoming more like Christ
- Protestants don't hold to this view, though communion is valued

Question 3: Is it wrong to study other biblical books and use those as our solid scripture?

Timestamp: 00:14:01

Answer Summary:

It's Okay To:

- Read other books for historical and cultural background
- Study extra-biblical texts as historical documents
- Learn from church history and early church fathers' interpretations

It's NOT Okay To:

- Take non-canonical books as solid scripture
- Use the Book of Enoch as authoritative scripture

Why the Book of Enoch Should Not Be Scripture:

- Early Jewish authorities did not consider Enoch part of the Bible
- The Greeks (Septuagint translators) did not consider it canonical
- Questionable authorship - likely written 100 years before Christ
- The book is fragmented and appears to have been rewritten multiple times

- Primary focus is on angels having relations with the daughters of men
- This contradicts Matthew 22:30 (angels don't marry nor are given in marriage)
- The book preaches things contrary to Christ's teachings

The Constitution Analogy:

- The 66 books of the Bible are like the Constitution
 - Other books are like historical documents (Jefferson's letters, Franklin's journals)
 - These are helpful but not authoritative
 - If something contradicts canonical scripture, the 66 books take precedence
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Question 4: What is Women of Worship?

Timestamp: 00:19:57

Answer Summary:

Clarification:

- Women of Worship was a separate group led by Veronica
- It was NOT part of Hope City Church; it was her own independent entity

Current Ladies' Groups at Hope City:

Women of Hope:

- Main ladies group
- Led by Sister Darlene
- Organize activities and events

Women of Worth:

- Operates under Women of Hope
 - Led by Sister Lisa
 - Hosts creative projects (painting, crafts, etc.)
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Question 5: When you pray to fast and break the fast, how does the Lord deal with that?

Timestamp: 00:23:42

Answer Summary:

God's Character:

- God is not like us; He doesn't hold grudges
- God is merciful and graceful

Key Principles:

- Don't make vows to God lightly
- Try your best to keep your commitments
- If you break a fast, finish it out anyway
- Just because you messed up once doesn't mean you quit
- God honors the desire to do better

The Heart Matters Most:

- God looks at the heart, not just the ritual
- A heart that says "I'll get it right next time" reveals a desire to please God
- God honors that kind of heart

Be Realistic:

- Don't start with 40 days if you've never fasted
- Fast one meal or sunup to sundown
- Plan ahead and think through your commitment
- You'll never find a convenient time - just commit and do it

The True Purpose of Fasting:

- Fasting is about depriving your flesh so your spirit can commune with God
- Wash your face, comb your hair, go about your day normally
- Don't make it obvious you're fasting
- Don't announce your fast to others

Question 6: Is it wrong to pray privately to speak in tongues?

Timestamp: 00:31:05

Answer Summary:

The Answer: No, it is NOT wrong at all. This shows a mature desire for intimacy with God.

Biblical Support:

- 1 Corinthians 14:2 - Speaking in tongues is speaking to God, uttering mysteries in the spirit
- 1 Corinthians 14:4 - One who speaks in a tongue builds himself up
- 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 - Paul speaks about praying in the spirit and with the mind
- Private prayer in tongues is biblical and encouraged by Paul

Not All Tongues Are for Public:

- Not every tongue is meant for the church
- Many tongues are for personal prayer and communion with God

How to Approach It:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit and the comforter, not specifically for tongues
- Focus on seeking God's presence and power

Overcoming Hindrances:

- Don't worry about how you sound
- Don't fear sounding strange or unfamiliar
- Fear of sounding foolish can stop the Holy Spirit from working
- Just let the Spirit flow through you

Key Point:

- Private prayer in tongues is a beautiful and mature spiritual practice
- Seek the Holy Spirit, and the gifts will follow

Question 7: Is it frowned upon for women to pray for men at the altar?

Timestamp: 00:36:30

Answer Summary:

The Answer: Not necessarily, but wisdom is needed.

Key Principles:

- Be aware of physical boundaries
- Living above reproach is crucial

- Protect yourself and others' reputations

Public vs. Private:

- The altar is public (okay)
- Private situations should be avoided
- Never counsel alone with someone of the opposite sex with the door closed

Physical Boundaries:

- Hand on the back or arm is appropriate
- Laying hands on someone's head is okay
- Don't be "groping" or hanging all over someone
- Brief, appropriate hugs (not full chest hugs)

When Praying:

- Ask what they need prayer for instead of assuming
- Find out their specific prayer need
- Lay hands appropriately

Additional Precautions:

- If giving a word to someone of the opposite sex, bring someone else
- Don't deliver spiritual guidance privately to opposite sex alone
- Be aware that perceptions matter; one wrong appearance can damage your credibility
- Protect yourself and the other person's reputation

Question 8: Is it necessary to read genealogy chapters?

Timestamp: 00:43:33

Answer Summary:

The Answer: Yes and No

Why You Should Read Them:

- They serve a purpose and are inspired
- Matthew 1-2 traces Jesus's lineage, establishing His connection to King David
- Ruth's genealogy shows God's redemptive plan includes outsiders
- Hidden gems and nuggets are found in genealogies

Why You Might Skip Them:

- They can be tedious
- You don't necessarily have to read every genealogy every time

Best Approach:

- Don't feel obligated to read every time
- Take time to study them occasionally
- Look for the significance of who is included and why
- Use study tools and commentaries to help

Key Takeaway:

- Genealogies are important and worth studying occasionally
 - They reveal God's plan and faithfulness
 - Understand they're there for a reason
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Question 9: Why is Matthew 17:21 not in the ESV?

Timestamp: 00:48:17

Answer Summary:

The Verse:

- King James: "Howbeit this kind goeth not out, but by prayer and fasting"
- Missing from ESV and other modern translations

The Reason:

- King James was based on the "Textus Receptus" (limited manuscripts)
- Since then, hundreds of earlier manuscripts have been discovered
- Manuscripts closer to the original are more likely to be accurate
- Modern translations (ESV, NIV, NKJV) use these earlier, more reliable sources
- Matthew 17:21 was likely a scribal addition from Mark 9:29

Does This Affect Doctrine?

- NO. This verse missing does NOT affect core Christian doctrine
- The same teaching appears in Mark 9:29
- Many other verses teach about prayer and fasting

Should We Trust Modern Translations?

- Yes. Modern translators have better source materials

- They're working in good faith to get close to the original text
- Having access to earlier manuscripts honors God's Word

Key Takeaway:

- The missing Matthew 17:21 is not a problem for our faith
 - Modern translations are trustworthy
 - We should desire to be as close to the original text as possible
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Question 10: How do you minister to someone who has strayed from the faith?

Timestamp: 00:57:52

Answer Summary:

Understanding the Challenge:

- Backslidden people can be very difficult to reach
- They are often defensive and argumentative
- Before reaching out, understand why they left

Why They Left:

- Personal moral failure?
- Church hurt?
- Broken relationship?
- Looking at people instead of God?

Critical Do's:

Get Information First:

- Learn their situation and perspective

Approach with Grace and Truth:

- Balance truth with compassion
- Remember: if anyone gets mad, you've lost the moment
- Anger turns everything into argument

Pray First:

- Pray and fast for them
- Get them on your prayer radar
- Ask God to soften their heart

Be Sensitive to the Holy Spirit:

- Don't go in aggressively
- The Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting
- You can't convince them through intellect alone

Love Like Jesus:

- Genuinely love them
- When you see them, warmly greet them
- Say: "I love you and I miss you"

Be Patient:

- Restoration is a process, not one conversation
- Don't expect instant results
- Change takes time

Critical Don'ts:

Don't Gossip:

- Gossip destroys any chance of restoration
- What you say will get back to them

Don't Shame:

- Don't make return conditional
- Welcome them back unconditionally

Don't Give Up:

- Keep your door open
- Don't write them off as "too far gone"
- We're commanded to restore those who fall

Desire for Their Return:

- Have genuine desire for their restoration
- Don't lose the desire to see souls saved

The Bottom Line:

- Love them like Jesus loved you
- Be patient and compassionate
- Pray and intercede for them
- Don't give up
- Remember: restoration is the goal, not judgment