

Witness to a Better Place

Session 2: The Substance of Witness: Being the Better Place

Focusing Questions: What are the spiritual formation practices that can help transform our reflexes for a hope-filled faithful and witness? How can we *be* the better place that God inaugurated in Jesus, a place infused with grace, joy and peace?

Four Views of the Vocation of the Church

	Salvation in Heaven	Salvation on Earth	Restoration Began with Jesus	Future Interruption	God Replaces Fallen Order	Christians Begin Fixing Fallen Order
Heaven-Centered	X			X	X	
Human-Centered		X				X
World-Centered		X	X	X		X
Kingdom-Centered		X	X	X	X	

Question for Discussion, Part 1:

Where have you seen these views? Which seem most prevalent in your context?

Scripture Focus:

Acts 1:6-8

II Corinthians 5:16-21

I John 1:1-4

Food for Thought:

The world becomes convinced of the redemptive quality of what the church models rather than what the church controls.

Questions for Discussion, Part 2

1. When you think about participating in the church's witness, how do you *feel*? Why?
2. What are the Christian habits that are most needed in order to *be* the better place in the world?
3. Does it make the church's vocation seem *more* or *less* manageable when you think of it in terms of embracing, displaying and proclaiming God's better place?
4. How do you understand the difference between demonstrating God's hope where the world is broken and fixing all that is broken in the world? What difference does this make in how the church is the church in the world?