



SESSION 1: YOUR CHURCH: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining—they just shine.

D.L. Moody

It is not scientific doubt, not atheism, not pantheism, not agnosticism, that in our day and in this land is likely to quench the light of the gospel. It is a proud, sensuous, selfish, luxurious, church-going, hollow-hearted prosperity.

Francis Chan

Some Christians never really thrive in holiness because they remain aloof and disengaged from other believers. But if we invest time and energy in making friends with Christians, we will begin to catch the lifestyle of light and replace the habits of darkness.

Richard Coekin

Books

- *Total Church* (Steve Timmis & Tim Chester)
- *The Gospel: How the Church Displays the Beauty of Christ* (Ray Ortlund)
- *You Can Really Grow*, chapter six (John Hindley)
- *I am a Church Member* (Thom Rainer)
- *Counter Culture* (David Platt)
- *Church Membership* (Jonathan Leeman)

Online

- *Who is the Church?* (video) gospelshapedchurch.org/resources311
- *Have You Been Salty Lately?* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources312
- *To Engage the World means being Present in It:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources313



SESSION 2: A UNITED CHURCH IN A DIVIDED WORLD

You are a Christian today only because God was the first to seek peace with you. You are now called and equipped to be the first to seek after peace and to attempt to pursue and maintain unity.

Thomas Brooks

Real unity does not come when we seek it directly. Rather, it is a by-product of seeking to follow Christ.

Tim Keller

We are not to be blind to our differences, but to appreciate our differences. If you are color blind, you miss out on the beauty of all that God has made. We need to rejoice in diversity.

Trillia Newbell

Books

- *United* (Trillia Newbell)
- *Blind Spots* (Collin Hansen)
- *Romans 8–16 For You, chapter eight* (Tim Keller)
- *Love* (Phillip Ryken)

Online

- *Why You Must Pursue Unity:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources321
- *While the World Divides, the Church Kisses:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources322
- *How to Weigh Doctrines for Christian Unity:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources323
- *How Can Local Churches Work Toward Racial Harmony?* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources324



SESSION 3: A SERVING CHURCH IN A SELFISH WORLD

The Dead Sea is the dead sea because it continually receives and never gives.

Anonymous

You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

John Bunyan

The only way to get our service of Jesus right is to realize that supremely, we don't serve him. He serves us. First and foremost, Christians are not servants; they are served.

John Hindley

Books

- *Serving Without Sinking* (John Hindley)
- *Weakness is the Way* (J.I. Packer)
- *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness* (Tim Keller)
- *Total Church* (Steve Timmis & Tim Chester)
- *Blind Spots*, chapter two (Collin Hansen)

Online

- *Loving the Unlovely and Unwanted*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources331
- *The Offence of Selfless Loves* (video): gospelshapedchurch.org/resources332
- *C.S. Lewis on Selfishness vs. Self-Interest*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources333
- *The Ridiculous Grace of Adoption*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources334
- *Loving Difficult People*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources335



SESSION 4: A GENEROUS CHURCH IN A STINGY WORLD



You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving.
Amy Carmichael

*Earn as much as you can. Save as much as you can. Invest as much as you can.
Give as much as you can.*
John Wesley

*If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small.
There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our
charitable expenditures exclude them.*
C.S. Lewis



Books

- *Sex and Money* (Paul Tripp)
- *Counterfeit Gods*, chapter three (Tim Keller)
- *Money Counts* (Graham Beynon)
- *Beyond Greed* (Brian Rosner)
- *Gospel Patrons* (John Rinehart)

Online

- *The Time is Ripe for Radical Generosity*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources341
- *How the Gospel Makes Us Generous and Content with our Money*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources342
- *Generosity: The Key to Gospel-Driven Productivity*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources343
- *Generosity (Theology Refresh: Podcast for Christian Leaders)* (video): gospelshapedchurch.org/resources344
- *The Gospel, Not Guilt, Motivates Radical Christian Giving*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources345



SESSION 5: A TRUTHFUL CHURCH IN A CONFUSED WORLD

A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.

John Calvin

The early church was strikingly different from the culture around it ... A pagan gave nobody their money and practically gave everybody their body. And the Christians came along and gave practically nobody their body and they gave practically everybody their money.

Tim Keller

The human heart longs for constancy. In forfeiting the sanctity of sex by casual, nondiscriminatory "making out" and "sleeping around," we forfeit something we cannot well do without. By trying to grab fulfillment everywhere, we find it nowhere.

Elisabeth Elliot

Books

- *The Intolerance of Tolerance* (D.A. Carson)
- *Meltdown* (Marcus Honeysett)
- *God in the Wasteland* (David Wells)
- *Counterfeit Gods*, chapter two (Tim Keller)
- *Is God Anti-Gay?* (Sam Allberry)
- *Sex and Money* (Paul Tripp)
- *The Stories we Tell* (Mike Cospers)

Online

- *Absolute Truth in an Upside Down World:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources351
- *Holding Fast to Truth in a Doubting Age:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources352
- *Speaking the Truth in Love:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources353
- *Intolerable Tolerance:* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources354



SESSION 6: A JOYFUL CHURCH IN A SUFFERING WORLD



A Christian should be an Alleluia from head to foot.
Augustine of Hippo

It is as we suffer that we show ourselves, our friends and the world that God is all in all to us. Take my money, my health, even those I love, and you have not taken what defines me. Unless you take my Jesus, you can't take my hope, my peace, my joy or my love. And you cannot take Jesus from me.

John Hindley

If our suffering unbolts our own heart to allow freer entrance by the word of God (in the words of Richard Baxter), it also unbolts our heart to allow freer flow outward of empathetic love.

D.A. Carson



Books

- *Romans 8 – 16 For You*, chapters 1-3 (Tim Keller)
- *A Place for Weakness* (Michael Horton)
- *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (Tim Keller)
- *Hope has its Reasons* (Becky Manley Pippert)
- *How Long, O Lord?* (D.A. Carson)
- *You Can Really Grow*, chapter ten (John Hindley)
- *Invest your Suffering* (Paul Mallard)

Online

- *Tim Keller Wants You to Suffer Well*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources361
- *6 Pillars of a Christian View on Suffering*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources362
- *The Beauty of Faithful Suffering*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources363
- *The Invincible, Irrefutable Joy*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources364
- *Jesus, You're the Greatest Joy (video)*: gospelshapedchurch.org/resources365



SESSION 7: HOW TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes—all the time! It must be that way, for God's glory and kingdom. If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit with us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal himself to a watching world.

Henry Blackaby

Those in whom the Spirit comes to live are God's new temple. They are, individually and corporately, the place where heaven and earth meet.

N.T. Wright

The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only he can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of him on whom their life depends.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Books

- *Galatians For You, chapters 11 to 13* (Tim Keller)
- *What is the Mission of the Church?* (Kevin DeYoung & Brad Gilbert)
- *Who on Earth is the Holy Spirit?* (Tim Chester)
- *Keep in Step with the Spirit* (J.I. Packer)
- *The Prodigal Church* (Jared Wilson)

Online

- *Encourage One Another: Giving Grace with Your Words:*
gospelshapedchurch.org/resources371
- *The Litmus Test of Genuine Christianity:*
gospelshapedchurch.org/resources372
- *Has Authenticity Trumped Holiness?* gospelshapedchurch.org/resources373
- *Can I Grow in Holiness Without the Local Church?* (video)
gospelshapedchurch.org/resources374