

Why Learn in the Church?

“The world is not going to uphold the truth of God for you. It is in a faithful, Bible-teaching church that you will be taught the truth—the truth about yourself, the truth about God, the truth about your need to know God through Jesus Christ, the truth about living most wisely and abundantly, and the truth about judgment and eternity.” ~Dr. Don Whitney

Who were some of the best teachers you’ve had in your church life? What are the characteristics that made that teacher or teachers so remarkable?

How is the church “a tainted trustee” of the truths of God? (180)

Dr. Whitney gives the following **reasons you should learn in the church**:

1. The church is “the pillar and ground of the truth” of God.
2. Christian discipleship is more than academics.
3. God has placed gifted people in the church to teach you.
4. God’s greatest commandment is to love Him with all your mind.
5. Learning in the church helps protect you from errors.

Why do you think the church is described as “the pillar and ground of the truth” in 1 Tim 3:15?

What are some practical ways that the church fulfills this function?

In what ways do some churches fail in the role of “pillar and ground of the truth”?

What are some “code words” we use that might be hard for non-Christians to decipher?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of such vocabulary?

Dr. Whitney wrote: “Learning in the church is always richer and better balanced than learning alone or through media.” How do you explain the insufficiencies to people who consider a preacher on radio or television to be their pastor?

Read Eph 4:11-12. If God has given the church teachers, what else does He consequently give the church as well? What application can be made for the non-teachers?

Read Matt 22:36-38. How does that relate to today’s chapter?

What does Dr. Whitney mean by the following, that we love the Lord with all our minds by what we *mentally initiate*, by what we *mentally cultivate*, and by what we *mentally tolerate*? (183-84)

What are some signs by which a lack of love for God with the mind might show itself?

How has learning in the church helped protect you from error?

What error(s) might one be particularly susceptible to if there’s no learning in the church?

With regard to practical application, how do you balance the “priesthood of the believer” and the necessity of learning in the church?

What are some other ways of learning in the church that are often overlooked or neglected by individuals or by churches?