

SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT

by Followers of the Way | www.followers-of-the-way.org/

Description

This document is intended to help engage in meaningful conversations with those who are interested in drawing near to the church, being baptized, and partaking in our weekly communion. Many of these questions are purposefully open ended because it is important to have conversations around the underlying principles and issues. This document is not intended to be a litmus test of acceptability or a checklist of mental assent, and certainly not a list of extrabiblical standards. For instance, if someone does struggle with the fear of men or depression this does not imply rejection but an important area for the church to know that a new brother or sister will need support in that area to overcome. Personal references and church references, where applicable, are an important part of the process to understand where someone is coming from and how they have interacted with others in the past. We speak with references in an open-ended manner as well so that the reference can describe any concerns or recommendations. This entire exercise is important regardless of background because it demonstrates a willingness to learn, conflict resolution skills, and social dynamics.

Personal Testimony

1. Describe your testimony of conversion to Christ.
2. Do you have a personal knowledge of God's love for you? Have you died to yourself?
3. Have you been baptized as a believer in faith and sincerity? At what age?
4. How would you describe your current relationship with God including your devotional / prayer life?
5. Do you believe that you are abiding in the vine and that you are growing in the fruit of the Spirit?

Church Experience

1. Describe your previous church experiences, if any.
2. Are there any unresolved issues in groups you may have left that should be addressed?
3. If applicable, can you provide references from previous churches?

Family / Marriage Relationships

1. Are you from a broken home? If yes, how do you think this has affected you?
2. If single, what is your current housing / living situation? Are you above reproach and suggesting not even a hint of immorality? (i.e. mixed gender living in same apartment or dorm)
3. Are you married? If yes, how is your relationship with your spouse, are there any struggles or issues you would like to overcome?
4. For married couples, what is your view of Ephesians 5:22-32?
5. Have you or your spouse been previously married?
6. How would you counsel someone in remarriage situation?
7. Do you have children? If yes, how do you feel that your parenting is going? Are there issues that you would like to discuss concerning your children?
8. What is your attitude toward children? What is your attitude toward mothers staying at home and raising children? Discuss 1 Timothy 2:15 and Titus 2:3-5.
9. What is your attitude toward homeschooling?

Personal Victory / Overcoming Sin

1. Do you harbor unforgiveness or bitterness toward others?
2. Is there forgiveness you need to ask or restitution that you need to make toward others?

3. Do you struggle with any of the following?
 - Outbursts of anger
 - Envy, Jealousy
 - Dishonesty, Lack of integrity
 - Fear of man
 - Depression
4. Are you caught up in any addictions? This includes smoking, marijuana, alcohol, etc.
5. Do you struggle with gluttony or anorexia?
6. Are you in bondage to pornography or sexual immorality?
7. Do you have involvements with the occult, witchcraft, or tribalism?

Personal Values / Convictions

1. What do you believe about war, politics (including voting), and nonresistance?
2. What is your practice regarding accumulation of money and treasures on earth?
3. Do you have high debt?
4. Does your occupation have ethical entanglements (oaths, weapons, impurity)?
5. What is your belief and practice regarding worldly entertainment (TV, movies, worldly music, professional sports, clubs)?
6. What is your view of fantasy novels such as the Narnia series?
7. What is your belief and practice on the woman's head covering (1 Corinthians 11)?
8. What is your practice with jewelry (including the wedding ring) and cosmetics? [Many plain people will sneak in doing nails, makeup, hair styling, while adhering to a few rules.]
9. What does modesty mean to you? How would you define modesty?

Doctrinal Understanding and Practice

1. What is your view of the word of God?
 - The Bible is the inspired Word of God and must be the basis for all things we teach. It is the standard by which the lives of New Testament believers are instructed and corrected.
 - The Bible is true, but can be interpreted in different ways. A passage can have equally valid interpretations and we need to respect each other's interpretations. The ruling interpretation in the time of a crisis is majority opinion.
 - The Bible is true, but some parts of the New Testament no longer apply to our culture.
2. Would you describe yourself as doctrinally orthodox? (e.g. Trinity, virgin birth, resurrection, etc.)
3. Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to salvation?
4. What is your view of baptism and do you accept others' baptism that may be different from yours?
5. What is your view of infant baptism?
6. What is your view of the Lord's Supper / communion?
7. What is your view of liturgy?
8. Are there particular teachers or pastors that have influenced you or that you admire?
9. Do you believe in any conspiracy theories?

View of Church / Leadership

1. What is your view of church authority and leadership models?
2. What do you believe about a pure church (committed disciples) versus a mixed church (hospital for sinners)?
3. What is your view of community, church life, and brotherhood sharing? Describe your ideal picture of church life.
4. What is your view of the role of tradition and church history?
5. What is your belief on women's silence during the church meeting and a woman's ability to teach a man (1 Corinthians 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-12)?

6. Do you have a teachable spirit and are you willing to cooperate with the body in humility?

Evangelism / Discipleship

1. Do you desire to make disciples? If so, how?
2. What are your strengths and your greatest gifts in Christian ministry?
3. What stumbling blocks to the gospel do you think you might be putting forth toward unbelievers and outsiders?

Summary

1. What has been your greatest struggle in your Christian journey and how can we help?
2. How can we best serve you and help you to be a follower of Jesus?