

Forty-fifth Street Baptist Church Life-Groups



Points of Emphasis

Teachers/Group Leaders are directed to include the following points in their discussions as appropriate. You don't have to use each one in-depth, but the highlights should be mentioned.

Chapter 10

We will examine three major distortions of the perfect picture God set before his people, with emphasis on how God chooses but not like man.

- I. The Backdrop of the Three Major Distortions. 1 Samuel 1
 - A. A man name Elkanah in Ephraim had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.
 - B. At Shiloh where the Tabernacle rested Hannah prayed to God for a child, promising to dedicate the child to God.
 - C. God hears Hannah's prayer and Samuel ("God has heard") is born and dedicated to God in service at the Tabernacle.
- II. The Three Major Distortions of God's Purpose
 - A. The Distortion of Phoniness.
 - 1. At Shiloh, the Priest was Eli and he had two sons, Hophni and Phineas, who abused the sacrificial system and committed sexually immoral acts.
 - 2. Eli refused to reprimand his sons and God's judged them all with death and the Ark of the Covenant was stolen from Shiloh. 1 Samuel 3-4

Application: You can't just have an outward appearance of religion. You must be genuine on the inside. We must be authentic. Live what we believe.

- B. The Distortion of Conformity. 1 Samuel 8

- 1. The people ask Samuel to anoint a king over them so that they can be like all the other nations. 1 Samuel 8:6
- 2. God tells Samuel that the people are not rejecting him; the people are rejecting God. 1 Samuel 8:20

Application: Don't aim to be like everyone else. God's people are to be distinct. We are not called to be like other people. We are God's unique people.

- C. The Distortion of Misrepresentation. 1 Samuel 9-13

- 1. God allows the people to have a king (permissive will) though it was not God's perfect will.
- 2. Samuel anoints Saul who is empowered by the Spirit to defeat the Ammonites. 1 Samuel 11:1-11
- 3. Saul disobeys God by not obeying God's command to destroy the Amalekites for their sin. 1 Samuel 15
- 4. God rejects Saul as king for misrepresenting God to the nations around him. (David is chosen.) 1 Samuel 15:23, 26

Application: We, too, are representatives of God to the world. When we disobey God we distort God to the world. Let us be like Samuel who obeyed God and not like Saul who disobeyed God.