NCFCA Apologetics Preparation for Monument Members

Season 22 Monument Release #8



Directions: Work through the source material in this download to help you understand this week’s selection of apologetics prompts. This release addresses approximately 5% of the total number of prompts you will need to be prepared for in your next tournament, so keep up the studying from week to week to ensure your knowledge in Apologetics. This week’s prompts are:

HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

45. What is prayer and why is it significant?

46. What is the church and why is it significant?

47. What is worship and why is it significant?

48. What is Bible study and why is it significant for Christ followers?\*

\*This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. A worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

For a list of all the prompts for the year and all other downloads for NCFCA apologetics, visit your download page at <https://club.monumentmembers.com/ncfca-apologetics/download-category/ncfca-apologetics>.

Purpose of Prayer *by Luis Garcia*

What is prayer and why is it significant?

## Bible Verses

Psalm 102:17

Proverbs 15:29

Matthew 6:5-15; 26:41

Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-14; 22:39-46

Romans 8:26-28

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Hebrews 4:14-16

James 5:13-18

## Quotations

“The objective of prayer is to get our will in alignment with God's will. Prayer is not trying to align God's will with ours; prayer is aligning our will with His. So the thing we need to ask ourselves is, "Is this prayer according to the will of God?" And how would we know that? Through careful study of Scripture.” –Greg Laurie, Daily Devotion *Effective Prayer*

“No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the Devil; not because he practices it, but because he suffers from it.” –Guy H. King

## Recommendations

<http://thegracetabernacle.org/quotes/Prayer-Purpose.htm> (This has too many good quotes!)

*With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray

## Commentary

Prayer is a part of the weaponry we carry as described in Ephesians 6. It is our direct communication to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Without it, we lose half of our relationship with God. For our relationship is built on Scripture and Prayer, founded and mediated on Jesus' Ministry and Blood, filled with the Holy Spirit, and exercised in obedience to our Abba.

Prayer has multiple purposes, but if it could be summed up, I think it would be, as Greg Laurie points out, to align oneself with the will of God. There is profound wisdom in that, and I don't even fully understand it. Prayer is mind-boggling. God's children are given direct access to Throne of God. We can come boldly to Him to intercede for others, praise and hallow His Name, open ourselves to pour out our struggles, express our passions, simply chat, come for our daily needs, plead for strength in time of trouble, find refuge, fellowship with Him, seek forgiveness, ask for His blessings, hear His voice, offer and surrender Him our everything, give Him the glory, and align our hearts with His. Prayer truly is an effective tool and weapon for the children of God.

The Church *by Luis Garcia*

What is the church and why is it significant?

Bible Verses

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Matthew 28:19-20

Acts

Romans 12

1 Corinthians 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Ephesians 4

Hebrews 10:23-25

Quotations

“People who were not Christians themselves helped me to Christianity. But usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to t’other. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so important. You might say that when two Christians are following Christ together there is not twice as much Christianity as when they are apart, but sixteen times as much.” –C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Recommendations

<http://carm.org/questions/about-church/what-purpose-church>

<http://thegracetabernacle.org/quotes/Church-Purpose.htm>

*Radical* by David Platt

*Radical Together* by David Platt

*Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever

Commentary

The Book of Acts is an amazing display of what it means to be a part of the congregation, what the early church looked like, and really they are the model of what it means to be the body of Christ. The purpose of the Church in its most concise form is Jesus. We are to magnify His Name in fellowship, lifestyle, worship, evangelism, teaching, serving, and discipleship. The CARM article in the recommendations thoroughly goes over the purposes of the church and include Scripture to support their points. The above passages I have included are only a few general references because they are too many to list.

In breaking this down, I would address the following issues:

* What is the church? Where did it originate?
* What is its purpose? Are we exemplifying that purpose in today’s church?
* Why should we care?

I would encourage you to make this card a challenge in urging yourself and fellow brethren to reevaluate what we consider is the church and how are we to live in community. We need to revive the family of God as Scripture prescribes. Only then can we become that unstoppable force to spread the glory and gospel of Jesus. However, the primary audience I would focus on it the perception of church to the secular world. Think about the questions they ask. Focus on these and bring the beauty of the gospel and power of God’s Word.

* Why should I go to church?
* What’s the point of the meeting? A social club?
* How can I go if the place is all hypocrites acting like they are righteous when we all know what happens when they drive out of the parking lot?
* How can I go if I feel so judged?
* I worship God in my own way. Why do I need organized religion?

Worship *by Luis Garcia*

What is worship and why is it significant?

## Quotations

“Wherever Christians live together, conversing and dealing with one another, there is the Church, there they are in Christ.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“It’s to our shame many folks looking for hope find more grace at the local bar than the local church.” –Jon Foreman

“We don’t *go* to church, we *are* the church. So many problems that show up on the church steps, or in the pews, or between congregations seem to start with misunderstandings about that. The church isn’t a physical building or a doctrinal statement or a perfectly produced program. It is us – we are the living expression of Christ’s presence in the world, His body. The sooner we realize that, the sooner we’ll be able to be the healing body of Christ to our sin-sick world.” –Mike Yankoski

“Jesus, who had a reputation for investing time with sinners, would preach five sermons against self-righteous churches for every one against taverns!” –Randy Alcorn

“Churches are essentially schools. They look like schools with lecture halls, classrooms, cafeterias and each new church program is basically a teaching program…but Jesus did not charge educators with the great commission, he chose laborers. And those laborers took the gospel and created Christian communities that worked, that did things and met in homes and were active…The only difference between the church and another educational institution is that nobody ever graduates from the church. We just keep going to school.” –Donald Miller

“In the end, rather than it being Christianity that has failed, could it be that we will be startled to find out it is the church that has failed, and not Christ?” –Ravi Zacharias

“People aren’t coming to church because the flesh is ruling the church, not because Jesus rules the church. When Jesus rules the church, the church expands. Either that, or it gets crucified. One or the two.” –Eric Ludy

## Commentary

This was originally worded in the form of a question to analyze: “Analyze and respond to the statement, ‘I don’t need to go to church. I can worship God wherever I am.’ –Anonymous”

This quotation is true. In fact, the definition of “worship” has been skewed to mean dressing up for a couple of hours a week and singing songs while pretending to be emotional by churches. The point of worship is in fact to make your body a living sacrifice to God, and every act must be an act of worship, not just a weekly event. However, church attendance can bring accountability, while not being involved with other believers easily pulls someone away from God.

Bible Study

What is Bible study and why is it significant for Christ followers?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary