

- b. If not, how will you reach that clear understanding?
 - c. How do you relate to those who see things differently than you do?
5. List those things you consider to be the essential, non-negotiable elements of the Christian faith; in other words, things that, if someone believes wrongly about them, they are not truly a Christian.
- a. For each one: explain why it is essential to Christianity and salvation.
 - b. For each one: is there a difference between “believes wrongly” and “believes differently than you do?” If yes, what is the difference?

APPLYING CHAPTER 1

1. What do you believe is God’s main purpose for the church? Feel free to disagree with what the book says – but if you do, support your position from the Bible.
2. If your church has a mission statement, write it here. If your church doesn’t have a mission statement, what do you think most of your people would say is your church’s mission or purpose?
3. How does answer #2 compare to answer #1?
4. What things do your church and people do that fulfill your mission? List as many as you can.
5. List any church activities that do not contribute to fulfilling the mission. For each one, should the activity be changed because it doesn’t fit the mission statement, or should the mission statement be changed to include the activity?
6. Prayerfully list anything revealed in this exercise that might call for a discussion with your church leaders. How and when will you do that?