

Fit Bodies, Fat Minds

Lesson 1

Part 1

Contrast the Puritan attitude on Faith and Knowledge with modern evangelicalism.

What does Guinness mean by the phrase “Ghost Mind?”

Was evangelicalism’s retreat from the intellectual caused by internal or external forces? Explain.

Chapter 1

Explain the relevance of Martin Luther's Drunken peasant.

What polarization was occurring at the time of the Great Awakening?

Why is heart versus head a false dichotomy?

What is your reaction to Charles Malik's quote on page 33?

Chapter 2

What is Pietism?

What shift occurred around the time of the second great awakening?

Read the last paragraph on page 38. What do you think about the truth of this statement?

Chapter 3

How is primitivism central to the American experience?

How do our Protestant roots contribute to primitivism?

What are the two main legacies of primitivism in evangelical thinking?

Chapt 4

What is populism?

Why does Guinness say that populism's strength became its weakness?

Is the authors summary in the two paragraphs on page 48, on the mark? Why or why not?

Chapt 5

Does pluralism equal relativism?

Is pluralism bad?

What's wrong with the aphorism "Deeds not Creeds?"

Chapt 6

What is pragmatism?

What is the significance of Guinness' contrast of Arminian and Calvinist theology?

How did pragmatism display itself in relativism?

Chapter 7

What do we mean when we call someone a “philistine?”

Why does Billy Sunday make a good illustration of this chapter?

Who does Guinness call the most alienated group within evangelicalism? Why?

Chapter 8

Why does this characteristic make it into Guinness' "P" list?

What is the "this is that fallacy?"

Why does Guinness say that premillennialism opened evangelicals to "a new form of worldliness?"

Part 2

What is an idiot culture?

How has this influenced evangelicalism?

Is Guinness arguing for an elite christian thinking?

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Lesson 6

Chapter 9

Neil Postman describes a shift from an age of _____ to an age of _____.

What five biases does television have according to Guinness?

Chapt 10

Why is advertising integral to the social shift from producers to consumers?

Why is advertising biased against independent thought?

Chapter 11

Why does Guinness include a discussion of style?

Describe three attitudes that come from a preoccupation with style.

What percentage of average American audiences pay attention to the content of a speech? What does this say about our attempt to proclaim the gospel?

Chapt 12

Read Henry Nouwen's words on page 94. Why have words lost their power in our culture?

Guinness talks of two consequences of a "word deficient" culture. What are they?

Chapter 13

What is modernism?

What is postmodernism?

Why is it important to understand the difference?

Chapt 14

What does the author mean by “tabloid truth?”

Guinness says, “Persuasion based on truth is irrelevant; no-hostages-taken, powerplay communication is now the name of the game.” Relate this statement to the area of evangelism.

Why is Christian media more violent in its rhetoric than its secular counterparts?

Chapter 15

What is “generational tribalism?”

What are some of the factors that lead to our current state?

Chapt 16

This is the last of Guinness’ survey of eight culture pressures. List the eight.

Retell in your own words the last two paragraphs of this chapter.

Part 3

List the seven steps of change outlined by Guinness in this chapter

Is there any chance of revival and reformation happening in today's evangelical setting?

What can we do to correct the problem outlined in this book?

