

Chapter 1 Questions

1. As of today, I have not been singing a hymn and had a negative feeling to imagery or language.
In preparing to answer this question, I began to listen to some hymns from my spiritual experiences in the Baptist Church. At this time, I am not in a conflict with my theology. In my church, we don't sing hymns. However, it is always warming to my soul when I go where they are being song.
2. It is embedded in my theology that certain events should not take place at the church. I believe that the House of God should be kept as holy ground at all times.
3. Recently, my church had a gala that celebrated life in the world and in the ministries for my founders. The sanctuary was changed in to an event hall with a dance floor. When the announcement was made that there would be dancing; I felt very uncomfortable. I didn't like it. I wrestled with did God give his approval for that. Immediately, I thought about the scriptures Matthew 21:12-13. I resolved that they would have to answer to for to God for that. I did not discuss my feelings about it. However, I did not attend. Honestly, I was not able to afford it. I was thinking maybe in the social hall, but not in the sanctuary. I believe that I will always feel this way. I realize and accept the cultural difference in my leaders.
4. Despite its frustration and heartache, deliberative theology is important. It serves to keep the church honest. It helps us to stay faithful to the gospel in each new age. When our embedded theology proves inadequate or simply incorrect, deliberative theology carries us forward. In the desire to say and do what honors and glorifies God, we need to question our actions and practices. I believe it is a vital part of the Christian faith <https://kingdom1st.wordpress.com/2010/10/18/embedded-and-deliberative-theology/>
5. Most recently, in my church there were theological tensions regarding the election of who to vote in for president?
6. In the most recent presidential election, there were people in my life who said they heard from God who should be president and why. It caused me to wrestle with God concerning the words that had been spoken. I didn't get it resolved. I followed my own belief.
7. I agree with the author that most Christians are often unable to articulate their theological understandings and belief. I think this correct because most of us will just take the word of someone else. Sometimes we don't know actually know what we believe until it is tested. I believe that most of us don't always listen with a critical ear and we don't study.
8. My church has a membership that was predominately White at some point. At this time, it is predominately Black. However, the Senior Leaders are White. I would hope that theological reflections are valued but I am not sure. I really don't know how to answer this question.

9. I do think that it could be threatening to think that possibly our embedded theology needs repair or replacement. I believe that learning to live this Christian life is a process. I believe that we will continue to learn, grow, change and form until the day we die. We all want to believe the story the way our parents, grandparents or aunts taught it too us. I believe all the factors of our being can possibly be threatened as the walls of our embedded theology is challenged. On a personal level, I have these challenges in my family. There are challenges with traditional, religious ideas that have nothing to do with serving the True and Living God. However, they are still bounded because of the unwillingness to explore and examine what they have been taught.