

New Member's Class 102: The Story of John Wesley: to Modern Methodism

- John Wesley was a clergyman in the Church of England. He wanted the people to have a sincere experience with God through the Holy Spirit.
- With a warm heart and conviction, John Wesley took his message to the streets. His message was received by the poor and common people. He inspired them to live holy lives. The people responded. The people turned away from the corruption of their day and lived Godly lives. Historians say that the bloodshed that typified the French Revolution was avoided because of the preaching of John Wesley and the other Methodist preachers.
- John Wesley was the author of the “Three Simple Rules” that Methodists strive to live by today; they are: 1. Do no harm. 2. Do good. 3. Stay in love with God.

John Wesley did not “invent” new, Christian teachings. He simply rediscovered and re-emphasized the old teachings. Among the points upon which he gave special attention are ... GRACE!



1. God’s grace reaches out to people even before they come to belief. This is called “preventive grace.”
2. Grace “justifies.” The grace of Jesus Christ brings pardon to people who have sinned against God and brings forgiveness.
3. Grace “sanctifies.” As soon as a person decides to follow Christ, grace slowly begins to change them and make them better.



Methodists are known for ...

Generosity and Involvement -

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

Ecumenical Emphasis (Respecting and working with other believers)

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

John Wesley (sermon)

Because of these emphases, Methodists are known for ...

1. Helping the poor.
2. Education
3. Social involvement
4. Respecting others.
5. Warm hearts.
6. Grace.
7. Sharing the faith.
8. Justice.
9. Reaching out to others.



- Methodism grew up with the American colonies and the new nation.
- Today the United Methodist Church is the second largest Protestant Church in the United States.
- Today Methodism is growing rapidly in Africa.

Some Methodist Core Values ...



We love God and we search the scriptures to hear and obey God's Word.



We welcome and serve all people, particularly the poor and marginalized, as an expression of God's love for us.



We desire everyone to experience a life of worship and joy in God's presence by faith in Jesus Christ.

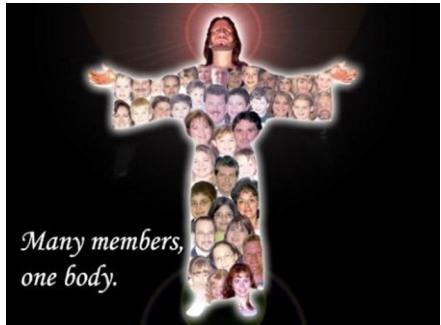
Some Methodist Core Values (continued) ...



We are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit as we learn to follow Jesus.



We believe that changed people are called to change their communities by the power of the Holy Spirit.



We believe all disciples are called to discover their gifts and to live out their unique mission.



We share our faith in the context of authentic relationships.



Because we follow Jesus together, we have a responsibility to hold one another accountable for our discipleship.



Today, Methodists in America try to continue to reach out in the name of Jesus with a grace-filled, non-judgmental, welcoming attitude. They love to worship and have a big emphasis on discipleship after the example of Jesus of Nazareth.

