

# FIRED UP CONVERSATIONS

## Study Guide

Winter 2012 Sermon/Study Series

<http://www.rbcpc.org/fired-up-conversations/>

## *“What About Cults?”*

Week #6

February 11/12, 2012

Next week: February 18/19: *“Sabbatical with the Holy Spirit”*

**Scripture References**  
Fired Up Conversations – Week 6  
*“What About Cults?”*

Read and reflect on the following scriptures.

**Galatians 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let that person be under God’s curse! <sup>9</sup> As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let that person be under God’s curse!

*Notes:*

**John 4:4-26**

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

<sup>11</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?”

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

<sup>17</sup> “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

<sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

*Notes:*

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**Scripture**

1. Read the Galatians scripture.
2. Have you ever encountered someone who claimed to be Christian but was really preaching a different Gospel? What was that experience like? How did you respond?
3. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you discovered that you held a belief about some aspect of Christianity that was actually incorrect?
4. What are ways in which we allow ourselves to believe and preach distortions of the Truth?
5. Read the John scripture.
6. What stands out to as you read this passage?
7. Put yourself in the woman’s shoes...how would you have responded to Jesus in this scenario?
8. Read verses 22-24, what do you think this looks like? Do you as an individual and we as a church fit this description? Why or why not?
9. What things do we allow ourselves to become distracted by that keep us from worshiping God this way?

**Sermon**

1. Bruce described a cult in this way:  
“One way to define a cult is that these are groups who have broken away from the mother religion by altering at least one major doctrine.”  
what would you add or change if you were to explain to someone what a cult was?
2. When having spiritual conversations with non-Christians, what do you find that they most want to talk to you about?
3. Based on Bruce’s sermon, what should we be most excited to share with them about our faith?

*“Whenever we let ourselves get sidetracked into majoring in minors, we are acting like cultists. Our neighbors don’t need our political or theological opinions, they need Jesus.”  
Bruce Humphrey*

4. If you take an honest look at your life and faith, how are you guilty of majoring in the minors?

### **Life Application**

1. How do you tend to respond to people who are different (spiritually, politically etc.) than you?
2. What would you offer to someone who is searching for the truth about God?
3. When are you tempted to look to Jesus to support your own opinion instead of allowing your opinions to be enlightened by your faith in Him?
4. What impact would this have on those around you?

### **Prayer**

Ask that God would open your eyes and heart to see the world as He sees it! Pray specifically for people in your life who are searching and ask that God would use you to reveal His truth in their life. Pray that God would help us focus on the things that are most important to Him and not allow us to get distracted by the minor things that draw us away from HIS truth!