

Defenders & Defamers

• Lesson One •

The Church in Bible Times
8,000(?) B.C. – 100 A.D.

1. What is the difference between “Church” (capital “C”) and the “church” (lower case “c”)? cf. Matthew 13:47-49

2. Evaluate: The Church started when...
 - a) God created Adam and Eve.
 - b) Christ died.
 - c) 3,000 people were converted on Pentecost.

3. Break up into groups for the following exercise. Skim through the chapter headings (or outline if your Bible has it) of the books of the Bible listed below. List as many “defenders” and “defamers” of the faith you find. Be ready to share BRIEFLY with the class how the “defenders” fought for the faith, and how the “defamers” tried to destroy it.
 - a. Acts 1-9:
 - b. Acts 10-23:
 - c. Colossians:
 - d. 1 & 2 Timothy:
 - e. 1, 2, 3 John:

4. Evaluate: When warning Timothy about false teachers, the Apostle Paul named names. Wasn't he harming the reputation of these people and thereby breaking the 8th Commandment?

5. The Church will always have its enemies. Based on your exercise from Question #3, where can we expect to find the enemies of the Church as we trace its history?

6. How does the exercise from Question #3 illustrate Paul's warning in Acts 14:22b, and underscore Jesus' promise in Matthew 16:18?