

Dead Ends In-Class Self-Test

1. Keller's chapter "Religion and the Gospel" focuses on what Work would call the 'dead end' of
A. Donatism B. gnosticism C. moralism D. paganism E. Pharisaism
2. Your church regards its people as genuine depending on how they've acquired the habits, jargon, or fashions of its 'in-group.' Work may worry that it has bought into the 'dead end' of
A. Donatism B. gnosticism C. Judaizing D. moralism E. paganism
3. Work claims that in Galatians, Paul is fighting
A. acculturation B. Donatism C. gnosticism D. moralism E. Pelagianism
4. Your church relies on precise formulas to assure salvation, such as the Sinner's Prayer, a particular programming strategy, extensive devotional practices, and knowledge of Christian doctrines. Work suspects it may be vulnerable to ___ thinking.
A. Donatist B. gnostic C. Judaizing D. moralist E. pagan
5. You evaluate churches according to how well they share your personal interests, tastes, and priorities. Work would tease you by calling you a church-shopping
A. Donatist B. gnostic C. Judaizer D. moralist E. pagan
6. You think revelations of your pastor's flagrant immorality made your church illegitimate. Work would
A. try to make you leave C. warn you against consumerism
B. try to make you stay D. warn you against Donatism

1. Each dead end concerns a good thing: sound leadership, fruitful methods, shared practices, wise behavior, and unity (respectively; see the next question's list). Why do pursuits of these things sometimes lead to heresies? What's going wrong? (Hint: Look to Keller chapter 11, and perhaps material in part I.)

2. What does each 'dead end' look like among Keller's 'red evangelicals' and 'blue evangelicals'? Relate each heresy's logic to each tribe's worldview, longings, temptations, and culture.

'Donatist' cults of pastoral personality

'Gnostic' political strategizing

'Judaizing' acculturation

'moralistic' civil religion

'pagan' self-segregation

3. Keller is fastidiously even-handed. Do you consider one tribe more compromised? If so, why? If you led a church with both camps, how would you help your believers with strong ideological/political commitments?

4. In light of the dead-ends and Keller material, what things do you and/or your churches do that worry you?

5. In light of the dead-ends and Keller material, what things happen at Westmont that worry you?

6. What are appropriate and inappropriate ways to discern which church to attend while you're at college? (BTW, 'procrastinating' is inappropriate.)

7. What does this semester's growing pile of 'theological fallacies' suggest to you about Christianity?