

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Share with the Group

Have you ever had an experience similar to the one Pastor Adam shared where you have felt let down or hurt by a spiritual leader who had a significant moral failing or in some way betrayed or left the faith?

How did it affect you?

How did it change your relationship to God or the Church?

What helped you find healing?

Donatism Recap

The Donatists taught that the church must be a community of the pure and holy; that ministers who had failed or compromised the faith were forever unworthy of their office; that the sacraments and ministries performed by any such bishops/pastors were invalid; and that true Christians must separate from churches led by compromised clergy.

What truths or partial truths do you see in their position?

What problems or mistakes do the Donatists make? Explain.

Read Matt 16:18 | Col 1:17-18 | Eph 1:22-23 & 5:23 | 1Pt 5:1-4

What do these verses teach us about the Church?

How can this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Read Rm 6:3-4 | Col 2:12 | Eph 4:4-6 | 1Cor 1:12-15 & 12:12-13

What do these verses teach about who is active in baptism?

How does this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Read Matt 13:24-29

What does this parable teach us about the Church?

How does this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Read Is 43:22-28 | Acts 4:12 | Rm 8:33 | 1Th 5:23 | 1Pt 1:3

What do these verses teach us about who we rely on?

How does this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Talk About It - Modern Donatism

Where do you see modern examples of Donatism?

What does a healthy biblical response to these look like?

Close by using Psalm 62 as a prayer

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Share with the Group

Have you ever had an experience similar to the one Pastor Adam shared where you have felt let down or hurt by a spiritual leader who had a significant moral failing or in some way betrayed or left the faith?

How did it affect you?

How did it change your relationship to God or the Church?

What helped you find healing?

Donatism Recap

The Donatists taught that the church must be a community of the pure and holy; that ministers who had failed or compromised the faith were forever unworthy of their office; that the sacraments and ministries performed by any such bishops/pastors were invalid; and that true Christians must separate from churches led by compromised clergy.

What truths or partial truths do you see in their position?

What problems or mistakes do the Donatists make? Explain.

Read Matt 16:18 | Col 1:17-18 | Eph 1:22-23 & 5:23 | 1Pt 5:1-4

What do these verses teach us about the Church?

How can this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Read Rm 6:3-4 | Col 2:12 | Eph 4:4-6 | 1Cor 1:12-15 & 12:12-13

What do these verses teach about who is active in baptism?

How does this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Read Matt 13:24-29

What does this parable teach us about the Church?

How does this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Read Is 43:22-28 | Acts 4:12 | Rm 8:33 | 1Th 5:23 | 1Pt 1:3

What do these verses teach us about who we rely on?

How does this reality help us when leaders fail us?

Talk About It - Modern Donatism

Where do you see modern examples of Donatism?

What does a healthy biblical response to these look like?

Close by using Psalm 62 as a prayer
