

Lecture 25: In Defense of Schaeffer

Father, we want to thank You for this time together. We thank You for all You are able to do in a person's life. As we've thought about Francis Schaeffer this semester, we praise You for the way You were able to take him, a man who was sinful and with all kinds of weaknesses just like each one of us, and use him for the up-building of Your kingdom. We pray that we may be prepared to offer ourselves to You as he offered himself to be instruments of righteousness and of Your truth in this world. That is our desire Father, and we thank You for the confidence in which we can ask that, because You are so full of grace and kindness to us. You don't judge us as we deserve, or look at us as we should be looked at, but You look at us rather with complete love and acceptance in Your Son. Father, we thank You for the wonderful confidence that gives us, and we do commit ourselves to You. We pray You'll be with us today in this class hour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction and Review: Having listed the criticisms leveled against Schaeffer, Professor Barrs continues to respond, emphasizing the continuity of Schaeffer's whole ministry and the lack of evidence for several of the accusations.

In Defense of Schaeffer*I. The "Early Schaeffer"**II. The "Later Schaeffer"**III. In Defense of Schaeffer - His "Early Character"**IV. In Defense of Schaeffer - His "Later Character"*

- A. Not "fixated" with social justice at a particular moment
 - 1. Same ministry throughout life
 - 2. Concern for 1973 Roe v. Wade
- B. Neither a full acceptance nor a full rejection of the Moral Majority
- C. Not a proponent of "single issue" causes
 - 1. Abortion - an issue of *human life*, not an isolated cause
 - a. A loss of human dignity and a blow against God
 - b. Concern for "next step" - euthanasia, infanticide
 - d. A historical issue
 - e. Christian responsibility
 - 1) Legislation *with education*
 - 2) Christian Action for Research and Education (C.A.R.E.)
 - a) Information to all groups
 - b) Education in all churches
 - c) Physical care
 - 2. The family
 - a. Unique approach - not judgment but compassion
- D. Not anti-catholic
 - 1. Last speaking engagement in England
 - 2. Some challenges to the doctrine (not for ecumenism), but not a rejection of people altogether
 - 3. "Stand with people who are right"
- E. Not a victim of the "siren song of media popularity"
 - 1. "Slick" films?
 - 2. No change in his concern for individuals
- F. Final comments:
 - 1. Illness for final nine years of his life

- a. Suffering, but a “wider voice”
 - b. John 12:23-26
2. An “ordinary person”