

GRACE GROUP QUESTIONS

November 1, 2017

Questions for Lesson 8 - Wednesday, October 25

On Being Presbyterian by Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

“Errand into the Wilderness: Early American Presbyterianism”

1. Have you ever thought about the role that ethnicity played in Presbyterian history? How did the different ethnic backgrounds of the participants shape the early days of Presbyterianism?
2. At the heart of Jonathan Dickinson and John Thomson’s disagreement on subscription was the purity of the church. Evaluate the two strategies for the purity of the church: do you agree more with Dickinson’s emphasis upon personal piety or Thomson’s upon doctrinal uniformity?
3. This chapter states, “In a pattern that would be replicated many times throughout Presbyterian history, a war brought the two sides back together.” In this case, the Seven Years’ War was the catalyst. Think about other wars and church unions - how do national politics influence religious communions for good or for ill?
4. Is it strange or amazing to you that the church operated for almost eighty years without a Book of Church Order? How did this developing polity shape Presbyterianism in both positive and negative ways?



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church