

Syllabus for Creekside Summer 2022

Understanding Christian Community: A Biblical Model

Session 1

- The Basis:
 - Who are we? What are we like? What are we saved from? What are we saved for?
 - Theological anthropology.

Session 2

- The context: The Sociology of the First Century
 - Features of and forces within 1st c. Mediterranean culture
- The context: The Norms of 2022 America
 - Tocqueville and the particular character of American culture
 - The confluence of the Enlightenment legacy (You are good and getting better, You deserve what you want, you will sacralize your desires) and the Judeo-Christian legacy (Desire must be curbed, We need one another, The essential dignity of humankind, Godly agnosticism)
 - Prosperity without Growth – Tim Jackson

Session 3

- A continuation of Session #2
- Introducing Jesus
- Introducing Paul

Session 4

- Race, class, gender in the Roman Empire
- Exploring the central passages #1
 - 1 Corinthians 12

Session 5

- Exploring the central passages #2
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - Romans 15:1-7
 - Philippians 2:1-4

Session 6

- Exploring the central passages #3
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 - Ephesians 4:11-14
- Summary: what is the NT teaching?
 - What are the forces that bind?
 - What are the forces that divide?
 - Are there contemporary examples?
 - Jonathan Haight

Session 7

- What do we, Creekside Church, do about it?