

## INTRODUCTION TO SCHAEFFER FILMS

In introducing these films, four questions come to mind:

1. Who is Francis Schaeffer?
2. What is this film series about?
3. Why should we watch them?
4. How should we watch them?

So, let's start with question #1 - WHO is Francis Schaeffer?

Francis Schaeffer was a Christian thinker who specialized in relating to the youth culture of the 60's and 70's. He and his wife, Edith, started a community called L'Abri in Switzerland which was a place for students to come to think and debate and study the issues of "WHO AM I?", "WHERE DID I COME FROM?"... "IS THERE MEANING TO LIFE AND HISTORY?". Thousands went to L'Abri...and many great contemporary thinkers, artists, writer are Christians TODAY because of Schaeffer and his challenging studies at L'Abri. Francis Schaeffer had the ability to explain how our culture has become a "post-Christian" culture through his books, his seminars and his films.

Our own fellowship has been profoundly influenced by Dr. Schaeffer and the L'Abri people by the

- a. emphasis on content and clear Bible teaching
- b. emphasis on understanding the thought-systems affecting our culture and equipping our people to discern and refute those systems
- c. emphasis on not laying down absolutes which the Bible does not lay down
- d. emphasis on the necessity of showing genuine love to those who do not know Christ.

Question #2 - What is this film series about?

This weekend we are going to study the history of Europe since the Roman Empire. We want you to see history from the CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE....to be able to evaluate art, music, philosophy, religion, politics and science Christianly...with God's values.

There are 3 Themes:

1. How we think and what we believe (or our world-view) DICTATES how we build our lives as individuals and as a society. (Prov. 23:7)
2. Man can build his life on only two bases:
  1. God and His Word, or
  2. Man himself---Humanism
3. To the extent that people build on God and His Word....  
THEY PROSPER.....  
To the extent that people build on man--on humanism....  
THEY DISINTEGRATE...spiritually,  
physically and  
emotionally.

This last theme --God & His Word vs. Man--Humanism----  
is demonstrated in the history of the Western Civilization  
from the Roman Empire up to the present.

This is what the film series is about.

Question #3 - Why Should we watch the films?

1. We need comprehensive knowledge about Christianity, and we need to understand history.
2. These films will strengthen our faith because we will see how what we believe as Christians has STOOD THE TEST of time...and how other beliefs do not.
3. The films will alert us to the key issues facing us today and in the near future.

As Christians, we understand from Scripture that the Kosmos, or World system, is run by Satan. There is always TENSION as God's people mediate God's kingdom on the same planet where Satan is running his. Jesus said we are to be the "salt" and "lights" of the world...and we will be discussing how to be the salt and the light as these films progress.

Question #4 - HOW should we watch the films?

1. DON'T focus on DETAILS ---names, dates, etc.  
If you do this, you will become frustrated and/or overwhelmed and then quit listening.
2. DO focus on the main points of each film and how they tie into the thesis of the series--what we discussed in Question #2--God and His Word vs. Man--Humanism. We will help you to do this by:

Handouts - key concepts of each film is written out. Also, there are two key questions that you can be thinking about as you watch the film. Some of the films have word definitions and you might want to look over those tonight before tomorrow's films. Each film will have a 10-minute introductory statement and then we will spend a few minutes after each film discussing the film and going over the questions.

I know myself I would tend to get caught up in names and dates. But I think the most important thing to keep in our minds is to realize that each of us is affected by history...our lifestyle is conditioned by history - our ancestors, our culture, our way of thinking. But if we remember that the history of man began with ADAM and the consequences of the Fall, when we began to operate in rebellion against God---then we can distinguish more clearly the ideas that come from the Kosmos, or the world system and the mind behind that, which is Satan---and the ideas that come from God and revealed in His Word.