

What Seekers Are Seeking

Arrows Out 2009 – Steve Mason

Assumptions: Western worldview; non-churched non-Christians; exceptions due to temperament, personal style, and life experience; people gather sociologically with others who are most like themselves.

Who are they?

Spiritually restless people who intellectually know something is missing in their story. They are on a journey searching for a life ingredient they cannot identify but feel like they will know it when they find it. Their search can be sporadic with greater and lesser periods of intensity.

What are they like?

- They are cautious
- They are skeptical
- They are fearful
- They are drawn
- They are wanting
- They are quietly hopeful
- They are observers

Atonement, Redemption, Reconciliation, Justification, and Adoption, in most cases, are experienced first, and then later understood. There is almost always a witness involved serving as a bridge between the seeker and what they are seeking. It may be a person, a group of people, or an organized church. The seekers felt need is love, acceptance, and forgiveness. Their spiritual need is Christ.

What turns them away?

- Judgmental Christian attitudes and behaviors
- Anything gimmicky or phony
- Feeling like they are crashing a party to which they weren't invited
- Being singled out, identified, or having attention drawn to them
- Overly demonstrative experientialism
- Forced participation
- Codes and Tribalism

What makes them stick?

- Christ centered Spirit filled worship
- Authenticity
- Sincere and helpful expressions of the truth
- Permission to explore without pressure to conform
- Relational fabric woven together by love, acceptance, and forgiveness