

Heitzenrater, Wesley and the People Called Methodists, Ch. 5b
Wesley Advocates **5 November 2017**

The Maturing of Methodism, pp. 261-290

Notice that by the 1767 Conference, RPH reports, more than half of the 34 circuits comprised more than 800 members and the Yearly Subscription (monies paid by members, some by pennies a month) totaled L 804.

What was the Preachers' Fund? Who received these monies?

Please review the "1766 Examination of Preachers" on p. 263. What do you find of particular interest here?

How did JW distinguish *preaching* and *exhorting*? What did JW allow women to do within and without the bands?

How did connectional support allow Methodists to build new preaching houses and schools and to undertake new missions? How successfully did they discharge their debt?

What were the Articles of Agreement JW expected his preachers to sign at the 1769 Conference in Leeds? Who set agendas for the conferences?

Who were John Fletcher and Joseph Benson, and what influence did they exert over JW and Methodism?

Describe Wesley's funeral sermon for George Whitefield.

RPH says that "the possibility of perfection in love through grace was the distinctive and defining message in Wesley's revival, and the very organization of the movement itself, as a network of disciplined small groups, was designed to nurture that hope of perfection in the lives of the Methodists" (pp. 270-271). Explain and exemplify.

Who was Francis Asbury, and why was he important to Methodism?

What should we know about Thomas Taylor, Phillip Embury, Barbara Heck, Robert Strawbridge, and Captain Thomas Webb?

Why did Lady Huntingdon ban Wesley from preaching in her pulpits? Why did John Fletcher leave her college at Trevecca?

Consider the collected *Works* published in 1771. What did Wesley include? How many volumes did it run to?

Wesley returns again and again to two doctrines: justification (Christ dying for us) and sanctification (Christ reigning in us). How do we regard these doctrines in contemporary Methodism?

Why and where did Wesley minister to the poor? Whom did he blame for the circumstances of the poor? How much did Methodists spend to alleviate poverty? What importance did JW place on visitation? How did he himself visit?

Briefly describe the 1773 and 1774 Conferences. Who attended? What key issues did they address? What health issues plagued JW, causing concern amongst his preachers?

What was the “purge and ordain” movement? How did Benson and Fletcher participate? What did JW agree to? What particular proposals came from Fletcher about reform?

Describe JW’s rules for Methodist preachers in America. Why, ultimately, did all but one return to England? How did JW regard the Americans? The American Revolution?