

Whatever Happened to Pietism?

by John E. Phelan Jr., p. 49

The historical path of Pietism raises questions of power, justice, and charity. What kind of Pietists are we?

1. John E. Phelan Jr. begins his column addressing misconceptions about Pietism. Why do you think Pietism has gotten such a negative reputation?
2. How does the church today balance preaching the gospel and pursuing justice?
3. Phelan says John Wesley was correct to fear that “worldly” success would be damaging to the Pietist movement. Where do you find this to be true in the church today?
4. Phelan dissects the change in status of the early Pietists from the lower socioeconomic classes into the middle and upper classes. What are the positives and negatives for the church to experience such a rise in privilege and power?
5. What do you think Phelan meant when he said, “Charity, in the long run, was a good deal cheaper than justice”?