

Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture (Part 1)

Many Modern Christians Grossly Misunderstand the Appropriate Relationship Between Church and Culture

The Church Against Culture?

Luke 9:51-56

As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" **But Jesus turned and rebuked them and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."**

The Chosen Clip: Sons of Thunder

Listen to Me You Sons and Daughters of Thunder...

- **Guardians of Truth?**
- **Defending God's Honor?**

John 16:7-8

I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And **He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment.**

- **You are Not Their Judge**

1 Cor. 5:9-13

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; ¹⁰ I *did* not at all *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is a sexually immoral person, or a greedy person, or an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or habitually drunk, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a person. ¹² **For what *business* of mine *is it* to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*?** ¹³ **But those who are outside, God judges.**

- They have not agreed to Jesus' moral code.
- It is not your role to police them.
 - Because you do not judge, condemn, or police them does not mean you condone their behavior.

- **They are Not Your Enemy**

Ephesians 6:12 **"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies..."**

- **Jesus Came to Save and Heal, Not Condemn and Destroy**

John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.**”

John 12:46

“**I have come** as a light to shine in this dark world, **so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.**”

Mark 10:45

“The Son of Man came not to be served **but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.**”

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me **to bring good news to the poor.** He has sent me to **comfort the brokenhearted** and to **proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed...**

The Church of Culture?

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- **The Church Cannot and Must Not Mimic the World**

Matthew 15:14 “If a person who is blind guides *another* who is blind, both will fall into a pit.”

2 Cor. 6:14-16

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness? Or what harmony does Christ have with Belial, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God...

Not Against, Not Of...And Yet Still “Sent” – Then, What’s Our Job?!

John 17:14-18

I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ **Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.**

The Church In and For Culture

* **Truth** * **Identity** * **Purpose** * **Success** * **Beauty** * **Love** *