

Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture (Part 2)

Summary of *Church Against Culture*

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.

With good intentions, churches of culture have tried to overlay the world's look, appeal, and methods overtop the church's mission. The result has been a pseudo-success – that has weakened our witness and grossly misrepresented Jesus and what it means to follow Him.

Radically Different Goals & Life Aim

2 Cor. 6:14-16

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what **partnership** have righteousness and lawlessness, or what **fellowship** has light with darkness? Or what **harmony** has Christ with Belial (Satan), or what has a believer **in common** with an unbeliever? Or what **agreement** has the temple of God with idols?

The Kingdom of God

(Church)

Partnership
Fellowship
Harmony
In Common
Agreement

The World

(Culture)

1 John 2:15-16

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

The Power is In The Gospel, Not Goods & Gimmicks

“We grade ourselves on how attractive we are to our target audience... In our search for common ground with unchurched people, we’ve discovered that, like us, they are consumers. So we leverage their consumer instincts...When you read the Gospels, Jesus attracted large crowds everywhere he went. He was constantly playing to the consumer instincts of the crowds. **Let’s face it: it wasn’t the content of his messages that appealed to the masses.** Most of the time they didn’t even understand what he was talking about...**People flocked to Jesus because he fed them, healed them, comforted them, and promised them things.**”

- There are deceptive, dangerous, and destructive problems with this thinking...It doesn’t work!

John 6:26-27, 63-67

“I tell you the truth, **you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you...**”

The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe me...” **At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.** Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?”

- Words like “**Relevant,**” “**Practical,**” “**Comfortable,**” – “**Creating Irresistible Environments**” Can Imply that the Truth is not enough...it needs to be upgraded, renovated, adjusted for consumer appeal.
- Church Becomes More about **Self-improvement, Life Coaching,** or “**the Experience**” than **the Cross.**
- Attracting people to “**a menu of goods and services**” rather than **a primary commitment of discipleship to Jesus and the call to die to Self on the Cross.**

The World Can’t & Doesn’t Deliver On Its Promises

1 John 2:17

This world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Not Against, Not Of -- Then, What’s Our Job?!

The Church In and For Culture

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

Philippians 2:15-16

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, because **you are living with crooked people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world. You offer the teaching that gives life.**

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