

Confronting Our Culture When the Church is in the Culture *(How to Avoid Cultivating Pagans in the Pews)*

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Hosea 12:7 "A cunning Canaanite! Deceitful scales are in his hand; He loves to oppress."

Introduction:

Like ancient Israel, the modern church has become enamored with and enslaved by her surrounding culture. So much so that the church looks, thinks, and acts more like the world she was called to reach than the church she was called to be.

Jesus prayed for His followers and those that would follow Him because of them and in His prayer revealed that it was His plan to take people out of the world and transform by the truth and then leave them in the world as credible and effective witnesses of the transforming power of the truth.

However, in order to be effective and credible witnesses to the world, these believers would have to maintain an identity distinct from the world in which they lived, moved, and ministered.

How can this be accomplished effectively, biblically, and without compromising the very truth to which we testify?

I. The Reality We Must Concede

- A. We Live in a _____ Culture
- B. We Live in a _____ Culture
- C. We Have become _____ by Culture

II. The Reactions We Must Confront

- A. _____ which comes from a wrong view of:
 - 1.
 - 2.

B. _____ which comes from a wrong view of:

1.

2.

III. The Response We Must Cultivate

A. We Must Understand Our _____.

B. We Must Know Our _____.

C. We Must Rest in Our _____.

D. We Must Fulfill Our _____.

IV. The Resources We Must Clasp

A. The Resource of Christ's _____.

B. The Resource of Christ's _____.

C. The Resource of Christ's _____.

V. The Road We Must Cut

- A. We Must Be Radically Committed to _____.
- B. We Must Be Radically Committed to _____.
- C. We Must Be Radically Committed to _____.
- D. We Must Be Radically Committed to _____.

Conclusion

God's people have been called to live in the culture as counter-culture people. Christians who have given attention to the "in the world" part of the Lord's statement have lost their distinctive identity and as a result have failed in many cases to communicate the truth accurately. On the other hand, Christians who have given attention to the "not of the world" part of the Lord's statement have kept their identity but in many cases have lost their opportunity and as a result have failed to communicate the truth attractively.

We have been called to do both. Truth matters enough to God that He would leave His people in a culture knowing they would be persecuted by that culture in order that some from that culture would be transformed. May God help us to be such a people in our day and to our culture.