

The Christ of Culture:

Evaluating Our Biblical World-View

Matt Wilson

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
Colossians 1:18-20

As you walk through life, you are confronted with the culture in which you are immersed. Whether it be channel surfing on your TV or cable, surfing the Internet's global community, listening to music, talking with your neighbor, or reading the latest news, you can not escape the influence of your culture. You are a cultural being who was born into culture and will die in culture. Because of the broad scope of culture, everyone reading this article will develop a different picture in his or her mind about what it means.

As a follower of Christ, how do you perceive culture? Interact with it? And respond to it? The answer to these three questions helps us get a better understanding of our personal world-view and then examine it in light of the world-view given in Scripture.

When I mention MTV, HBO, Internet, Hollywood, Rolling Stone Magazine, body piercing (ears, tongues, navels, lips, eyelids, etc.), and Tommy Hilfiger, what are your immediate reaction or feelings? It is not uncommon for the evangelical community responds by rejecting these types of things as part of the secular world in which the church should have no part.

Each of those things mentioned above are part of our culture, but what is our response to be according to Scripture? An easy and safe approach to this issue is to develop a "Christ against culture" world-view. This view focuses upon the world's negatives and rejects the sinful, fallen, and deformed elements of our culture. There exists a false concept that the realm of the church is the good realm that has escaped the sinfulness and the realm of the world is evil and hated by Christ. Unfortunately this view has become Christianity's continuation of their Israelite heritage by not being propelled to engage culture with the gospel message.

Christ's very life provides help for us to better understand our role within the culture we live in. The very act of God Himself seeking to become like man and interjecting Himself into our culture serves as an over arching summery to the life Christ lived. The culture was the very vehicle that Christ used to communicate His Good News message. He sought to engage the culture at every level so as to redeem it for Himself and through His death have first place in everything and every part of culture. Jesus was the Christ of Culture; reforming the deformed for the glory of God.

The Biblical world-view places the Kingdom of God in the center of culture, and then seeks to reform every area to God's glory. In light of this view and the cultural elements mentioned above, each of us can begin by asking, how can I engage the culture around me like Christ? Do I see the culture and hear its cries for help? Do I seek to understand where the unbeliever is coming from so that I can communicate the gospel to them? Spend quality time in prayer over this questions and journal your thoughts. In the process, hearts and lives become redeemed for the glory of God