

Culture or Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17

If you had to identify one group of people from another, how would you do it? Of the many factors that you could use; three of the main ones are: language, customs and religion. This seems to be getting more attention these days, as people are moving all over the planet, and want to hold onto something; so they are trying to preserve their culture.

Ever since the Tower of Babel, language has been a concern.

Genesis 11: 1 to 9 - And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Customs, or the particular way of doing things is important to many people.

And the failure to follow them can really raise up a storm. Acts 28: 17 - And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs

of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

While language and customs can cause a lot of trouble; the biggest one is religion. Galatians 1: 13 to 14 - For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

But after a person gets saved, things change, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8: 13 - For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

James 1: 26 & 27 - If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Now, the question is: are the world's cultures compatible with Our Lord Jesus Christ. Firstly, no other religion is comparable to Biblical Christianity.

John 14: 6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4: 12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1 John 2: 23 - Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

This is probably why Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5: 17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

When someone does get saved, the devil tries as hard as he can to mess them up, and destroy their Christian witness.

And one of his favourite tactics is to submerge them in an ungodly culture.

2 Corinthians 6: 14 - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

This is not a trivial matter that some may think; because it has caused God's People a lot of trouble throughout history.

Exodus 32

Even if they turn away from the idols on the outside; they can not fool God.

Ezekiel 14: 1 to 6 - Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

A culture is seen by people, on how they stand on religion and morality.

How does God see it? Acts 15: 20 - But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

When you get saved, how will others relate to you?

1 Peter 4: 4 & 5 - Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you : Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

Does God's opinion change with time on these ungodly practices?

Revelation 2: 12 to 17 - And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is : and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

So, the question is; what do you do with your old culture, when you get saved?

Read your Bible, and pray about it.

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And let the Holy Spirit cleanse you, and make you more like Jesus Christ, to the Glory of Our Heavenly Father.

And stay under the covering of Our Lord's Precious Blood.

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