



LEGENDS OF THE CALL

Small Group Questions Week 7

1. Your culture is the sum total of everything that is part of the society you live in at any given point in time. What are some good parts of American culture? What are some of the bad parts?
2. Christianity has a complete separate culture of its own. Good Christian culture is defined by what God says is right as spelled out in the Bible. Bad cultural practices are anything God says is wrong as spelled out in the Bible. What are some of the things that are vital parts of good Christian culture? What do you see as some bad things that have become part of Christian culture in the past?
Answer – Some vital parts of the Christian culture are: Love other people as Christ loved us, serve other people as Christ served us, love and treat other Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ, try to imitate Christ in everything you do, etc. Some bad cultural things that have been part of the church in the past: During the inquisition, the church killed people who disagreed with church beliefs, racism crept into the American church in the past, acceptance of homosexuality as a lifestyle blessed by God has become part of some branches of Christianity, the belief that sexuality is not defined by God as male and female but can be re-defined any way you want to, etc.
3. Where did the bad parts that have been part of the culture of the church come from? Read Ephesians 2:1-4 together. What do you think it means when Paul talks about following the ways of this world? Would these “ways” be part of our culture? Who does it say is the ruler of this world’s culture?
Answer— The bad that has ever crept into Christian culture is always when the church adopts ideas that originate in the minds of man and not from God’s word. Paul says that we lived in the ways of the world when we were unsaved and that our sinfulness was part of the culture of the world. It is in the culture of mankind that you find all of the actions of man’s sinful nature in evidence. Since it is in mankind that sin originates in this world, the culture of this world is characterized as being sinful by God. The ruler of this world and its culture is the “ruler of the kingdom of the air” which is Satan. (compare with Ephesians 6:10-12).
4. Read Colossians 2:6-8 together. What is the warning for us in this passage? Do you think this is talking about the culture of the world we live in? These verses are specifically talking about not buying into ideas and beliefs that are false. What are some of the cultural beliefs in our society which are against what God says and therefore not true?
5. Read 1 John 2:15-17 together. What do you think it means to “not love the world”? Read Romans 12:2. Pastor Rick said that cultural appropriation is the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one group by another group, usually by those in power. Do you think Paul is saying in Romans 12:2 that we should never allow the world to appropriate us into its culture? What do you think happens when a Christian immerses themselves in the culture of the world?

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Answer – To love the world is to place the values of this world as being the most important things in your life, the things that you live for. Paul is saying that we should never allow our culture to push us into the mold of how the rest of the world says we should think and behave. When a Christian immerses themselves into the culture of our world, then they will think and act in whatever way our culture says they should. In many situations this will be the opposite of what God says is how we should think and act.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 together. What do you think Paul is referring to when he calls the Corinthians worldly? According to this passage, being worldly as a Christian is a sign of what?
Answer—He described them as displaying jealousy and quarreling in the church which made them worldly. In other words, they were not living out the commands of Jesus to love each other and were instead indulging in how the people in the world who are not Christians treat each other. Paul says this is a sign that they are still baby Christians, they have never grown spiritually. The more spiritually minded a person becomes, the less they follow their sinful nature's desires and the more they become immersed in the Christian culture. The world's culture is the one that promotes sinful behavior. But notice he does not say they are not Christians for acting like unsaved people, just that they are immature.

7. What should we do as Christians to make sure we are staying true to our Christian culture and that we are not being appropriated by our worldly culture?
Answer—We should constantly be examining the ideas and actions that we accept and compare them to what the Bible says is the truth. Where our ideas and actions conflict with what God says, we should abandon those ideas and actions. The more we know what the Bible says, the easier it is to do this.