

II Corinthians 6 – 1 May 2022

“Creating Christian Culture”

Introduction

- *Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2nd M.T.), made lots of disciples
 - *Some of them needed lots of growth & help
- *Theme of Book: The life of the minister: temporary pain & eternal gain
 - *Chap 1 – ‘thriving in the fire’ -depending on H.S.
 - *Chap 2 – guiding others toward freedom in Christ
 - *Chap 3 – privileges of being in the New Covenant
 - *Chap 4 – Reasons we press ahead & faint not
 - *Chap 5 – Inner compulsions to serve Christ
- *Now Chap 6 – we have the call to create a Christian culture around our lives
 - *How close do we hold unbelievers...or believers?
 - *Do we live for the world while in Christ, or do we live for Christ while in the world?
- *Let’s look at 5 keys for creating Christian culture**

1st key to creating Christian culture is to take the initiative to live ready to see Christ (Vs 1-3)

Read Vs 1-2

1. The emphasis is ‘live for God NOW’ don’t wait
2. Paul’s saying that he & his fellows are their role-models for how to conduct themselves
3. Vs 2 is a quote from (Read) Isa 49:8
 - a. We’re to “rise above the earth’ & move into our new inheritance!

Read Vs 3

1. Don’t have questionable behaviors or have them on display that would cause another to stumble
2. Don’t needlessly hinder people from listening to the Gospel from you b/c they’re offended by a habit
3. Dealt w/ this so heavily in I Cor 8-10
4. I want to live my life with the same priorities that I want to have in the moment I meet Christ

2nd key to creating Christian culture is to develop the fruit of the Spirit (Vs 4-7)

Read Vs 4

1. We show that we never give up though we face much trouble/pressures, sufferings/limitations and hard times/anguish
2. Perseverance comes from knowing the good that God has coming

Read Vs 5

1. Thru beatings, imprisonments they worked hard going without sleep and food
2. Fruit of the Spirit stands out to others as we going thru trials and the struggles of serving others
 - a. THIS is when we can be seen as different

Read Vs 6

1. We carry w/ us innocence, smarts, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit & sincere love
2. These are the fibers of which the canvas of Christian culture is woven

Read Vs 7

1. We speak true things w/ God's power; righteousness being our defense
2. A fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness by which we don't shrink back from presenting God's greatness

3rd key to creating Christian culture is to hold tight to nothing of this world (Vs 8-10)

Read Vs 8

1. World despises us, but God sees us different
2. World will see you differently than Jesus does
3. World tells lies of us, but God sees us different
4. When seen as tricksters, God sees us different

Read Vs 9

1. World doesn't know us, but we're popular to God
2. We're close to death in the world, yet alive to God
3. We're being punished in this world, yet spiritually renewed everyday

Read Vs 10

1. There are things to sorrow over in this world, yet we rejoice for what's to come
2. We have nothing of substance in this world, yet we have the riches of eternity to give to others
3. We hold on to nothing of this world, yet we look forward to inheriting all things to come

4th key to creating Christian culture is to cultivate love for others (Vs 11-13)

Read Vs 11

1. Question is now open to the Corinthians. Do they want to see Paul as world does or as God does?

Read Vs 12

1. Paul hasn't held back his love from them, but they've held back their love by disobedience
2. Love is shown in your actions more than words

Read Vs 13

1. **Now give back** the same payment of love to us
2. Consider Christ's love for you, then give back

5th key to creating Christian culture is to bond with believers; don't give your heart to heathens (Vs 14-18)

Read Vs 14a

1. Only join w/ believers in fellowship & support
2. Context is for ALL association of life; how much more meaningful is this in relation to marriage

Read Vs 14b-15

1. We're to represent righteousness, light, Christ Himself and faith
2. Can't have unity w/ people of constant, sinful habits of darkness who live for worthless things. They're not living in faith, trusting the Bible

Read Vs 16

1. Create a different culture & climate around us
2. Armor of God should characterize the fabric of our life **BY WHICH** to walk into a sinful world
 - a. Where pants that are **MADE** of truth
 - b. Where a shirt **MADE** of righteousness
 - c. Where shoes **MADE** of peace

- d. Take the shield MADE of faith
 - e. Where the helmet MADE of salvation
 - f. Draw the sword MADE of God's Spirit
thru His Word
3. W/o this we can't affect them, they affect us!
 4. If you live your life comfortable around sinner's habits, you haven't created the Christian culture in your life
 5. Notice in vs 16 'we are the temple of God'
 - a. Would we have God partake in sinful culture?

Read Vs 17

1. Don't live our lives in the habits of the unclean world system
2. Come away & create that Godly culture around
3. This was the call in Isaiah's day & in 7 yr Trib

Read Vs 18

1. The promise of God being with us to tenderly lead and guide us into this great new culture
2. As a good Father; He wants the best for His kids

Conclusion

So it's all about influence: will the world influence us to change toward ungodliness or are we influencing the world to change toward salvation and eternal life?

1. **Take the initiative to live ready to see Jesus**
 - a. Swim upstream or world will sweep you down
2. **Develop the fruit of the Spirit**
 - a. Draw on power of God for victorious life
3. **Hold tight to nothing of this world**
 - a. This world will disappoint, but God cannot
4. **Cultivate love for others**
 - a. Only when we see God's great love for us, will we then return it to others
5. **Bond w/ believers; don't give your heart to heathens**
 - a. Whom your heart gets connected to, will steer the course of your life