

Introduction

VIDEO

So how do you reform a hypocrite & control freak who has been domesticated

1. In my image

- (1) We're now getting closer to part of the story where I will have the most influence ever conferred to me in the shaping of a community's DNA
- (2) It's frightening to think about isn't it.

2. Three Choices

- (1) I didn't know it yet, but I would have 3 choices
- (2) 3 modes of operation that churches tend to operate from.
 1. Leave the Gospel in past? Limits to 2
 2. Carry it forward? One more
 - 2 Charac. of the **Concited**
 - 3 Charac. of the **Conflicted**
 - 4 Charac. of the **Content**
 3. 3/4 Bible passages

I. The Conceited Church (v 7)

2 Cor 12

1. Lifts up the individual over the image

PIC 1

(1)

Conceited = exalt = lift up

Magazine

(2)

Everything I ever set my hands to, I succeeded.

PIC 2

Ordination

1. Athletics, business, ministry

2. Domesticated & conceited.

3. Remember: I'm also learning what Bible says

(3) In my first two churches we were absolutely conceited

1. The happiness of members was exalted over the holiness of members

2. Because attendance was the primary benchmark used to measure success.

3. Turned our people into consumers instead of contributors

(4) Failure to treat them as image bearers

1. Flesh desires vs. Spirit

Conflict



2. Lifts up the gifts over the Giver

(1) A leader's competency
exalted over character

1. What they can do w/
30 - 60 min on stage
was what we cared about
2. Saw this in my 3rd
church (Dean, etc.)

(2) Consequences:

1. Churches grow wide,
not deep. (Willow Creek)
2. Trying to keep everyone
happy, makes no one
happy. Vulnerable to splits
3. Ministries/Churches
became personality
driven, dependent
upon one-person(s)

(3) Arrive at Anthem
(conceited & conflicted)

1. The year after I start,
God does something I'll
spend the next couple years
questioning Him for.
2. Keep me from becoming conceited

PIC 3

Move

PIC 4

Ordain

II. The Conflicted Church (v8)

1. Confuses quality with quantity

(1) My 1st & 3rd churches were definitely conflicted.

(2) This injury had me praying one prayer all the time... take the pain.

1. Telling God what I wanted was more important than telling God how I felt (outcome orientated)

2. If I just prayed it enough, God would do it (didn't learn w/ Tyler)

(3) Conflicted churches think quantity makes the difference over quality.

1. How much you volunteer, how much you give, how much you attend.

2. Rather have 10 than 1000

3. " " \$10 than \$1000

4. " " attend once a month will not hurt your heart than every week hard-hearted

Learning to have friends

PIC 5
Mark

PIC 6
Chuck

* loose them

2. Confuses silence with absence

(1) Pleaded = be by my side

1. God, why are you making it harder to serve you!?
2. Depressed
3. Lashing out
4. God feels absent.

(2) These churches conflicted about God's goodness, presence, & will in suffering.

1. Culture that wants community to be comfortable & avoids talking about anything too painful.
2. Just painful enough to give illusion of vulnerability

1 Thessalonians 5:14 - And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

3. We want to hear about the pain God is taking away, not the pain He is allowing.

(3) Sometimes God is silent, but He is never absent.

3. Confuses suffering with pain

(1) Pain is what we feel
(emotion, physical)
Suffer is what we do w/ it

(2) Suffer = under + endure

there are three forms of persuasion; "ethos," (convincing the audience through the speaker's credibility and qualifications) "pathos" (using emotion to sway the audience like appealing to fear or hope) and "logos." (a logical appeal using facts and figures).

Pathos = suffering

using my suffering to convince you

The English word "Pathology" literally means "the study of suffering."

"Allopathy" means "the treatment of suffering."

From there, are words like "Sympathy," (the sensitivity to others' suffering), and "empathy," (the action of, or the capacity for, vicarious experience of others' sufferings).

Which would also lead us to "Passion." Which in Greek is defined as "suffering" or "enduring". Also, "strong emotion, desire" or suffering for something you desire.

If you look at the cause of disease that would be "pathogens" which would be "pathos" combined with "gen" or "birth." Alluding to the fact that suffering stems from our birth or that life is suffering. Friedrich Nietzsche said "What is the best for man? The best for man is not to be born, and if he is once born, then the second best is to die soon after birth." He understood the nature of suffering and man's sadness over suffering. But not it's purpose

However, the Greeks also knew a very important fact, that out of suffering arises knowledge. "Here are two things brought together, one of which mankind would like to blot out (suffering), but also knowledge, one of the highest possessions of life." My dream

Romans 5:3-4 - Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

(3) Suffering → sanctifies

ACF (4) Churches confused by
Hud (5) The sabbatical

III. The Content Church (v9-14)

1. Preaches revelation over speculation

(1) So what kind of church would be build.

Past tense gospel

1. A conceited church based on my success & personality
2. A conflicted church as a reflection of my pain, trauma & experience
3. Where would we begin?
"But He said to me..."

(2) Return from sabbatical series = Heaven.

1. Started w/ the Bible
2. If you're a die hard Arminian, you will be more content in a Reformed church that preaches the Bible
3. Staunch Calvinist...

(3) Churches that don't preach the Bible are just speculating & therefore indistinct from a new age community or Buddhist temple.

2. Praises grace over blessing

(1) Is grace enough?

2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

1. For all things, at all times, for every good work.

(2) I thought I earned the right to have the pain taken away.

1. I deserve death

(3) Churches tend to focus on blessing, what we think God has done in response to our works.

1. The gospel slowly moves back to past tense.

2. Output orientated community.

(4) Churches that praise grace, what we don't deserve, create a culture of humility.

1. Mitigates emphasis on "what" people are doing, but "why". We're all the same..

3. Prizes weakness over strength

(1) We value weakness here

1. The ability to confess sin ... scary sin ...
be vulnerable

2. I'm scared of anyone w/ sway, no problems, no story (Andrew)

(2) Jesus works through weakness, not strength.

1. Our strength is in His sufficiency & power

2. Which brings us to the last trait...

4. Promotes Jesus over everything

(1) Make Jesus Known

(2) The Gospel is a person

2 Corinthians 4:5 - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Conclusion

1. So how about it Anthem?

(1) What kind of church will you help curate?

1. A Concocted Church? One that lifts the individual over the image? Lifts the gifts over the giver?
2. A Conflicted Church? Where we confuse quality w/ quantity; silence w/ absence; pain w/ suffering
3. Or will we be content in our call to suffer? Preaching revelation over speculation; praising grace over blessing; prizing weakness over strength; Promoting Jesus over everything.

2. What you do w/ the Gospel affects all of us.

(1) If you want a content church, than take seriously your responsibility to the daily task of moving the Gospel into the present tense
It affects us all

Colossians 2:1-2 - For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,