

The Safety of a Godly Culture

“What is the chaff to the wheat? Saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:28).

The church is made up of spiritual brothers and sisters. As these brethren have lived and worked around each other, their intertwined lives have formed a culture. This culture is largely good and comforting and tends to nourish many peripheral needs of the Christian. The culture of the church is safe for the nurture of souls, but the culture itself is not to be confused with righteousness or holiness. It is simply a safe place for such things to germinate and grow.

Chaff feeds, protects, and nourishes a kernel of wheat as it grows. Similarly, our daily lives affect the kernel of God’s Spirit in our hearts. Chaff is vital to the growth of wheat. In the same way, the culture we are surrounded by is vital to the growth of the true kernel. Chaff is of no value after wheat is harvested, and neither is the culture that shaped our Christian lives when we come to face an eternal God in time or eternity.

1. Does a repentance experience affect culture?
2. How much of our church service is cultural practice?
3. Is our singing a cultural tradition?
4. Does our cultural safety tend to breed a lack of conviction among the young ones?
5. How and why did Jesus move past cultural boundaries?
6. Who creates cultural barriers?
7. What is cultural unity, and is it a worthy goal?
8. Does endorsing cultural practices bring about unity?
9. Does unity of the Spirit bring cultural oneness?
10. Do the differences in our upbringing and the communities in which we are raised create cultural gaps? How easily can one adjust his thinking to really fit into another culture?
11. Is it appropriate to place any spiritual value on culture?
12. What are some of the safe things about our church’s culture?
13. Culture is inevitable. How responsible am I for the culture of the church?
14. Are there some things that we now view as inappropriate or sinful which may simply be cultural differences?

Scriptures for Meditation

Mark 7:1-23

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Galatians 3:28