



Shofar Christian Church

KINGDOM CULTURE

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What is culture?

Culture = way of life

Culture is passed on from one generation to another. Not through genetics but by social interaction and learning.

Can be seen in one's clothing, art, food, music, writing, etc.

What is culture?

“Culture” = all human phenomena which are not purely a result of genetics.

Modern term “culture” is based on a Roman term which means “cultivation of the soul” or “cultura animi”.

What is culture?

“The very word culture meant ‘place tilled’ in Middle English. In other words, to be cultural, to have a culture, is to inhabit a place sufficiently and to intensively cultivate it – to be responsible for it, to respond to it, to attend to it caringly.”

- Edward S Casey (1986)

What is culture?

“Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.”

- E.B. Taylor (1898)

What is culture?

Opening his mouth, Peter said: “Most certainly I understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the person who fears God and does what is right [by seeking Him] is acceptable and welcomed by Him.”

• Acts 10: 34 - 35

What is culture?

After these things I looked, and this it what I saw: a vast multitude which no one could count, [gathered] from every nation and from all the tribes and peoples and languages [of the earth], standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes with palm branches in their hands.

- *Revelations 7: 9 - 10*

21st century Christian culture

Church history demonstrates that one of the constant struggles of Christianity since Biblical times, both individually and corporately, is with culture. Where should we stand? Inside the culture? Outside? Ignore it? Isolate ourselves from it? Should we try to transform it?

- Jerry Solomon

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I have given them Your word; and the world has hated because they are not of this world, just as I am not of this world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of this world, just as I am not of this world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent me into this world, I also have sent them into the world.

• John 17: 14 - 18

We are not of this world. In it but not of it.

21st century Christian culture

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

• 2 Timothy 4:1 - 5

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“No thoughtful Christian can contemplate and analyse the tensions all around us in both public and private life without sensing the eternal momentousness of the struggle for the human mind between solid, biblical Christian teaching and materialistic secularism.”

- Harry Blamires

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I know you deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. So because you are luke warm, and neither hot nor cold, I spit you out of my mouth.

- *Revelations 3: 15 - 16*

21st century Christian culture

TRANSFORMERS

- need to be “discerners”

Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’

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TRANSFORMERS

- *need to be “discerners”*

Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.

- *Matthew 16 : 1 - 4*

21st century Christian culture

TRANSFORMERS

- *must be SALT*

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

- *Matthew 5 : 13*

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TRANSFORMERS

- *must be LIGHT*

While they are saying, “Peace and safety [all is well and secure!]” then [in a moment unforeseen] destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains on a woman with child, and they will absolutely not escape [for there will be no way to escape the judgment of the Lord]. But you, [c]believers, [all you who believe in Christ as Savior and acknowledge Him as God’s Son] are not in spiritual darkness [nor held by its power], that the day [of judgment] would overtake you [by surprise] like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day.

21st century Christian culture

TRANSFORMERS

- *must be LIGHT*

We do not belong to the night nor to darkness. So then let us not sleep [in spiritual indifference] as the rest [of the world does], but let us keep wide awake [alert and cautious] and let us be sober [self-controlled, calm, and wise]. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we [believers] belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope and confident assurance of salvation.

- *1 Thessalonians 5: 3-8*

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TRANSFORMERS

- *must recognise what needs to be transformed and what not.*

“In proportion as a society relaxes its hold upon the eternal, it ensures the corruption of the temporal [secular/ non-spiritual].”

- John Baille

21st century Christian culture

“Worship is no longer worship when it reflects the culture around us more than Christ within us.”

- A.W. Tozer

21st century Christian culture

Therefore become imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]; and walk continually in love [that is, value one another—practice empathy and compassion, unselfishly seeking the best for others], just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God [slain for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

But sexual immorality and all [moral] impurity [indecent, offensive behavior] or greed must not even be hinted at among you, as is proper among saints [for as believers our way of life, whether in public or in private, reflects the validity of our faith].

21st century Christian culture

Let there be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse [obscene or vulgar] joking, because such things are not appropriate [for believers]; but instead speak of your thankfulness [to God]. For be sure of this: no immoral, impure, or greedy person—for that one is [in effect] an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God [for such a person places a higher value on something other than God].

Let no one deceive you with empty arguments [that encourage you to sin], for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience [those who habitually sin]. So do not participate or even associate with them [in the rebelliousness of sin].

21st century Christian culture

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [live as those who are native-born to the Light] (for the fruit [the effect, the result] of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn [by experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [and letting your lifestyles be examples of what is most acceptable to Him—your behavior expressing gratitude to God for your salvation]. Do not participate in the worthless and unproductive deeds of darkness, but instead expose them [by exemplifying personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character]; for it is disgraceful even to mention the things that such people practice in secret.

21st century Christian culture

But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light [of God's precepts], for it is light that makes everything visible. For this reason He says,

*“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine [as dawn] upon you and give you light.”*

21st century Christian culture

Therefore see that you walk carefully [living life with honor, purpose, and courage; shunning those who tolerate and enable evil], not as the unwise, but as wise [sensible, intelligent, discerning people], making the very most of your time [on earth, recognizing and taking advantage of each opportunity and using it with wisdom and diligence], because the days are [filled with] evil. Therefore do not be foolish and thoughtless, but understand and firmly grasp what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him.

21st century Christian culture

Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, [offering praise by] singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks to God the Father for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- *Ephesians 5: 1 - 21*

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *A man sowing good seed in a field*

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds [resembling wheat] among the wheat, and went away. So when the plants sprouted and formed grain, the weeds appeared also. The servants of the owner came to him and said, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field?'

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *A man sowing good seed in a field*

Then how does it have weeds in it?' He replied to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants asked him, 'Then do you want us to go and pull them out?' But he said, 'No; because as you pull out the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "First gather the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; but gather the wheat into my barn."

• Matthew 13: 24 - 30

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *A man sowing mustard seed in a field*

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and of all the seeds [planted in the region] it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air find shelter in its branches.

• *Matthew 13: 31-32*

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *Like leaven [yeast] in dough*

The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and worked into three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

• *Matthew 13: 33*

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *Like a hidden treasure*

The kingdom of heaven is like a [very precious] treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field [securing the treasure for himself].

• *Matthew 13: 40*

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *Like a hidden treasure*

But whatever former things were gains to me [as I thought then], these things [once regarded as advancements in merit] I have come to consider as loss [absolutely worthless] for the sake of Christ [and the purpose which He has given my life].

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *Like a hidden treasure*

But more than that, I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord [and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him—a joy unequaled]. For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ,...

• *Phillipians 3: 7 - 8*

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *Like a costly pearl*

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

• *Matthew 13: 45 - 46*

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

✧ *Like a dragnet*

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet which was lowered into the sea, and gathered fish of every kind, and when it was full, they dragged it up on the beach; and they sat down and sorted out the good fish into baskets, but the worthless ones they threw away.

Kingdom of Heaven is...

✧ *In our midst...*

Now having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed or with a visible display; nor will people say, ‘Look! Here it is!’ or, ‘There it is!’ For the kingdom of God is among you [because of My presence].”

Kingdom of Heaven is...

✧ *in our midst*

Then He said to the disciples, “The time will come when you will long to see [even] one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. They will say to you, ‘Look [the Messiah is] there!’ or ‘Look [He is] here!’ Do not go away [to see Him], and do not run after them. For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, gives light to the other part of the sky, so [visible] will the Son of Man be in His day.

• *Luke 20 - 24*

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ Those who are awake

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps.

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are awake*

Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.' Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. But the foolish virgins said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.'

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are awake*

But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.' But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.'

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are awake*

But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship]. Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].'

• *Matthew 25: 1 - 13*

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who show forgiveness*

Then Peter came to Him and asked, “Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me and I forgive him and let it go? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered him, “I say to you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves....”

• Matthew 18: 21 - 23

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who repent and become childlike*

I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent [that is, change your inner self—your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble, and forgiving], you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

• *Matthew 18: 3*

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are poor in spirit [humble]*

I assure you and most solemnly say to you, it is difficult for a rich man [who clings to possessions and status as security] to enter the kingdom of heaven.

• *Matthew 19: 23*

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are transformed*

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are transformed*

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are transformed*

For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

• 2 Peter 1: 3 - 11

Who can enter the Kingdom of Heaven

◆ *Those who are obedient*

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

• *Matthew 7:21*

What is Kingdom Culture?

*And the Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.*

• *Isaiah 58:11*



What is Kingdom Culture?

And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

• *Romans 12:2*

What is Kingdom Culture?

“I believe in Christianity [the kingdom of heaven] as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

- C.S. Lewis

What is Kingdom Culture?

*The righteous will flourish like the date palm
[long-lived, upright and useful];
They will grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic
and stable]. Planted in the house of the Lord,
They will flourish in the courts of our God.
[Growing in grace] they will still thrive and bear
fruit and prosper in old age;*

What is Kingdom Culture?

They will flourish and be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment]; [They are living memorials] to declare that the Lord is upright and faithful [to His promises]; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

- *Psalm 92:12 - 15*