

Volume 3 - Day 10: Superimposing Christianity on our Culture

Christians, although we should know better, consistently try to superimpose our standards onto those who do not share our beliefs. The church often tries to get non-believers to do what we fail to do ourselves. Actually the demands of the church are impossible to achieve. Moral purity is beyond the grasp of the natural man or even the Christian who is not deeply intimate with God. We are often preaching sermons, writing articles, and singing hymns, trying to equate our country and our culture with Christianity. It cannot be done.

The Christian Church is something that is supposed to be set apart. It is not the color of our skin, our ethnicity or our social standing that matters. The Christian Church is a new creation born of the Holy Spirit, out of the suffering of Christ. It is another culture altogether. It is a culture where loving others more than ourselves is the norm. We are to be different from the natural man.

We are to be other-caring rather than self-indulging, because we are risen with Christ. That is, we are to have the other-preferring nature of God as opposed to the self-preferring nature with which we were born. In order to achieve this you must “Seek those things that are above and set your will (heart), emotions (soul) and thoughts (mind) on the things that are above where Christ sits on the right hand of God.”

Consider every altercation in your experience with others and look for the self-preferring nature in them. You will find that all of them occur because of this self preference in those matters. Further, most altercations are based only on differences of opinion.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan