

River Valley Notes

OASIS

Part #5: Water Cooler Christianity

February 18, 2007

The Current Cultural Disconnect

- 1) People are taking a pass on _____ involvement by the millions
- 2) The younger you are, the _____ likely it is that church will resonate with you
- 3) The most influential among us has an _____ radius that doesn't exceed our own group

Our History of Cultural Engagement

Our Heritage: The movement of God has continually _____ & re-presented itself to new people, places & time periods in terms, forms & language that each one can _____ & ultimately embrace.

Basic Assumptions of Redemptive History:

1. **God is passionately in love with _____.**
2. **God Himself is the ultimate _____ of every person.**
3. **The mission of the Church is to enter the dialog of _____ and give God voice.**

Moses: God is never _____, He is always eternally _____.

Ex. 3:13-15

...God replied, "I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS. Just tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said, "Tell them, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This will be my name forever; it has always been my name, and it will be used throughout all generations. (NLT)

The question: Who is I AM _____?

Elisha: "It's _____ turn now."

2Kings 2:11-14

Then Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak and returned to the bank of the Jordan River. He struck the water with the cloak and cried out, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" Then the river divided, and Elisha went across. (NLT)

The question: Who's got _____?

Daniel: God can make Himself authentically known in any cultural _____.

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Dan. 1:17

God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for learning the literature and science of the time. And God gave Daniel special ability in understanding the meanings of visions and dreams. (NLT)

Culture is never a barrier for God. It serves as a new language form for His dialog.

The message of God is culturally _____. It can adapt to any cultural setting throughout history, throughout the world. It is not culture-phobic. The gospel is comfortable in any cultural skin. There is no culture it can't speak to.

The Question: "What does Jesus look like in _____ cultural skin?"

Paul: Culture is to be _____ for God's redemptive purposes.

Acts 17:22-29

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you... (NIV)

The question: How is my culture asking the _____ and how can I enter the _____?

We believe that the Gospel should be translated into new terms for each generation. We recognize that we are part of a long historical stream of redemptive history. God-followers for millennia have engaged the Eternal God and given Him voice to their people, in their place, in their time... now it's our turn. The message of God's irrational love through Christ should be distilled to its essence and portrayed in language & forms that can be understood & embraced by our culture in this generation. We believe that Christ-followers are called to embrace culture in order to leverage it for God's redemptive purposes. We are comfortable in our own cultural skin. Because the Eternal God is the ultimate desire of every person, the Church is called to answer questions that people are actually asking. The community of faith should be a refuge, but not an island. If we ever catch ourselves trying to be relevant to our culture, we aren't.