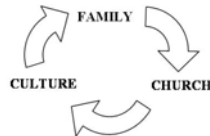


△ Glorifying CHRIST . . .

□ . . . lives of CREDIBILITY . . .

○ . . . love for the COMMUNITY. , pt. 3

Glorifying Christ through lives of credibility and love for the community.



*Love the community of family.
Love the community of the church.
Love the community of our culture.*

CULTURE is the habits, choices and behaviors of people.

We tend to go to two extremes:

Hate it!

Conform to it!

WHAT DOES CONFORMING TO CULTURE LOOK LIKE?

Romans 12:2, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (NIV)

Conformity is when we live according “to the pattern of this world.”

What is “the pattern of this world”?

Romans 1:25, *“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator . . .”* (NIV)

Romans 1:29-32, *“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”* (NIV)

There is a tension within us all that pulls us toward Christ and toward the world.

Colossians 2:20, *“Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules . . .”* (NIV)

Proverbs 26:11, *“As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.”* (NIV)

THE COST OF CONFORMING TO CULTURE:

We will develop misplaced priorities.

Lot said in Genesis 19:7-8, *“No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don’t do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.”* (NIV)

Genesis 19:16, *“When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them.”* (NIV)

Jesus said, “Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”
(Luke 17:32-33-NIV)

We will mislead the lives of others.

Genesis 19:12-14

Genesis 19:14, “But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.”
(NIV)

The town’s people said, “This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge!” (Genesis 19:9-NIV)

Lot’s conformity led them to see the truth as a lie!

Genesis 19:30-38

Lot’s conformity led them to see wrong as right!

We will lose influence.

Genesis 13 through Genesis 19 = 20 YEARS!

Genesis 18:20-32, “Then the Lord said, ‘The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached Me. If not, I will know.’ ‘The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.’”

“Then Abraham approached Him and said: ‘Will You sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing — to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked

alike. Far be it from You! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?’ The Lord said, ‘If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.’

“Then Abraham spoke up again: ‘Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will You destroy the whole city because of five people?’ ‘If I find forty-five there,’ He said, ‘I will not destroy it.’

“Once again he spoke to Him, ‘What if only forty are found there?’ He said, ‘For the sake of forty, I will not do it.’ Then he said, ‘May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?’ He answered, ‘I will not do it if I find thirty there.’

“Abraham said, ‘Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?’ He said, ‘For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.’

“Then he said, ‘May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?’ He answered, ‘For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.’” (NIV)

Lot had five in his family, with no influence on their lives.

Lot’s son-in-laws had no faith whatsoever.

Lot’s wife and two daughters had embarrassingly little faith.

Genesis 19:16, *“When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them.” (NIV)*

Why did God destroy Sodom?

Genesis 18:32, *“Then he (Abraham) said, ‘May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?’ He (the Lord) answered, ‘For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.’” (NIV)*

Ezekiel 16:49-50, *“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before Me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.”* (NIV)

Presented on **Sunday, March 22, 2009** at *COLLIN CREEK CHURCH* in Plano, Texas.
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