

Culture war

Over the last year I made a decision to talk about religious life. For a few years I got caught up in this woke agenda and stupid voting. It was consuming me. This blog should reflect how I live in the Christian world while living in the non-Christian world. I go to church. I read my Bible. Yet, I live in the real world. A place that has bills and work. Some would contend that is my problem. I don't call the Christian world the real world.

Hebrews 11:13 *"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth."*

There are other scriptures. The Bible goes to great lengths to promote that we are not of this world. Yet, here we are physically. You can't be exiled from nothing. We all are born into this world. However, that is not truly how we began. God created us. We originally come from Eden. The human race was supposed to be good. They were supposed to be holy and undefiled. Still, I am amazed that murder happened right away in the Bible story. Equally I am amazed that God allowed the serpent in Eden. Culture (the world) has been a part of our lives since the days of Adam and Eve. Do you think the serpent was the only thing that tells us to disobey God? Culture is older than prostitution. Yet, it wants you to sleep with the devil.

Humans will claim that humans are inherently good. That it's culture that ruined us. That's a good question. Who or what makes culture? Who made Cain angry enough to kill his brother? At those times there wasn't TikTok or Twitter. We did not have extremists and CNN. What influenced a family with possibly 4 people on the entire earth? Is it possible that those four

people started the culture war. A war that says I know better than God. We can do things the right way without the divine. How is that working out?

What does God have to say? Ephesians 2:19-20 *“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.”*

They say that we are strangers in this world. To be in the family of God means you left your earthly family. In a way it's the tale of two families. Why do we have so much trouble with both families? One is blood but we tend to (metaphorically) spill it. Family discomfort is a real thing. I don't understand why? The spiritual family is complicated too. Why? In a perfect world we would embrace Eden. Live together in harmony. Yet, that is not how human's role. We bring in the culture we left. We just do.

There is a culture war today. It's always been there in different forms. The French Revolution. The Russian Revolution. The split of the church in 1054. One way thinks the other way should die. This generation wants diversity, equality, and inclusion. Yet, they have done so with cancelling, shaming, and destroying history. It's a revolution. However, they forgot that any ideological group is always small. Cults are never the majority. A culture war is really a small group trying to take over a large group. It's never worked. All it's ever done is bring poverty and death.

I am fascinated by the norm. What is the culture norm? I suspect that the (norm) is what we all want: peace. So, why can't we achieve the norm? It's because we are made in the image of God. Deep within our DNA is the desire to be holy, righteous, and divine. Although we are created, that's how we roll. I think God did that because we needed to know our place. He is God

and we are not Him. Yet, God has allowed us to try on His big boy pants. To be God for a day. How is that working out? Humans don't allow freedom to choose. We don't care for your culture and your race. I wish we did! Humanly speaking we don't. The culture war is designed to have only one culture. It's never been possible. It's never happened. However, there is a way through this mess.

I am in a church culture that promotes a few things. One is conformity to an ideological idea of one united body. However, the pastor speaks about it 24/7. Why? It's because on earth it's not possible. The second thing our church culture has achieved is diversity in the name of God. I love the different backgrounds and color that our church is becoming. In the name of God (not our church) we have achieved racial harmony. We have achieved sexual harmony. One body fairly rowing together. How? If we put God at the top then we can row for him. It reminds me of the song lyrics "*Michael rowed the boat ashore, halleluiah.*" Yet, as head of the church, the pastor can't get past preaching unity. Unity is growing in God. Yet, disunity is growing in spite of God. It's the human culture war.

Why do we have clicks of people? Why do we have cults? How does a small group of people run a whole country? Why are they voted out for a different ideology all the time? It's because, deep down, we all want our way to win. Yet, our way is willing to win at all costs. Just ask Cain. The culture war will never end. A small group will always try and take over our culture. Revolutions have always happened to let the little cults know they don't own the majority. New groups will rise. Death and mayhem will follow. Wars don't happen by mistake. We told God, thanks very much, but we want to make our own world. To date, we are still at war with ourselves while trying to be God over all. It's odd that we mock the Bible for being honest about our hearts.