Creating A Culture Change

Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 — "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

I. Seeing Christ in a New Way of Life

Scriptural Foundation: 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Philippians 3:7-10

True culture change begins when we stop seeing Christ through the lens of religion and start seeing Him through the reality of relationship. A transformed vision of Christ leads to a transformed version of self.

Cross-References: Romans 12:2, Ephesians 1:18, Colossians 3:1–3

Reflection: Christ isn't just to be seen on Sunday; He must be seen in us daily. **Transition:** Once we see Christ clearly, we realize our old ways can no longer steer our decisions.

II. Seeing the Old Ways Not Guiding Our Decisions

Scriptural Foundation: Ephesians 4:22-24; Romans 6:6-11

Transformation requires renunciation — we must release what once ruled us. You can't drive forward while staring in the rearview mirror. Old ways hinder holy progress.

Cross-References: Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:20, Titus 2:11-12

Reflection: Yesterday's logic cannot lead today's believer. When Christ governs the heart, the old GPS (Guided by Past Self) loses its signal.

Transition: Once the old no longer guides, the new nature begins to glide — and we see the change both within and around us.

III. Seeing the Changes Within Us and Without Us

Scriptural Foundation: Colossians 3:9–10; Galatians 5:22–25

New creatures don't just act differently, they are different. Transformation is both visible and vital. *Christ doesn't do a surface renovation;* He performs a soul reconstruction.

Eight "C" Characters of Christ

- 1. Compassionate Matthew 9:36a "When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them..."
- 2. Committed Luke 9:51b "...He determined to journey to Jerusalem."
- 3. Courageous John 2:15–17 "... He drove everyone out of the temple complex..."
- 4. Consistent Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- 5. Content Philippians 4:11 "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."
- 6. Courteous 1 Peter 3:8–9 "... should love believers, and be compassionate and humble..."
- 7. Clean-hearted Psalm 51:10 "God, create a clean heart for me..."
- 8. Christ-centered John 8:29 "... I always do what pleases Him."

Theologian's Insight:

"The church is reformed, and always reforming, according to the Word of God."—John Calvin (16th-century Reformer)

Reflection: Calvin reminds us that spiritual maturity is not a moment; it's a movement. Christ calls us to be ever-evolving — letting His Word reform our worldview, worship, and walk. If we're not reforming, we're conforming — and Christ didn't call us to conform but to transform. (Romans 12:2)

Conclusion: Living the Culture of Christ

Culture change begins when the new creation in us begins to create a new community around us. When we live like Christ, we lead others to see Christ.

Daily Challenges to Become Better Christlike Christians:

- Check Your Vision How do I see Christ today?
- Challenge Old Ways Replace one habit with holiness.
- Cultivate Character Practice one "C" trait each day.
- Connect in Community Encourage someone's walk.
- Confess Daily Keep your heart pure and teachable.
- Celebrate Growth Thank God for every small change.
- Carry Christ's Presence Set the culture, don't just survive it.

Final Encouragement: Beloved, culture change is not <u>cosmetic</u>— it's <u>Christ-matic!</u> When we see Him differently, we live differently. When we live differently, the world begins to believe differently. Let the new creature in you shape the new culture around you!