Subverting Civilisation: A Case for Cultural Apologetics

Of the various approaches that apologetics employs, this one is the most challenging and therefore the most neglected. This talk explores what cultural apologetics is and what goes into the making of this kind of apologist. If there was ever a cultural moment for this to be taken seriously, it is now.

Andrew Fellows was appointed pastor of a church in Bradford, West Yorkshire in 1988 and served there for seven years. In 1995 his family moved to the English branch of L'Abri Fellowship, where they lived and worked for 21 years. From 2011 to 2016 Andrew was the Chairman of L'Abri international. He has recently relocated to Cambridge to take up the role of Director of Christian Heritage. He has a special interest in encouraging followers of Christ to develop the life of the mind so it includes the whole gospel to the whole world with all of its implications. Andrew is married to Helen. They have four children.

- I. The Arena for Cultural Apologetics
 - A. Cultural Apologetics is focused to domain where human life is played out
 - 1. Understanding what undergirds culture (the cultural stage)

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of the world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit that is now at work in those who are disobedient." Eph. 2:1

- a. cultural presuppositions get embedded in everyone who functions on the cultural stage
- b. because this presupposition is rooted into the realm of the supernatural 'getting at it' is complicated
- II. The Scope of Cultural Apologetics
 - A. Big Picture
 - 1. From the cultural to the civilizational
 - 2. From now to the past and the future
 - 3. From the eternal to the cultural

B. Prophetic

- 1. Confrontation as message of judgement
- 2. Mobilization as message of hope
- III. The Making of a Cultural Apologist
 - A. The Bible
 - B. Prayer
 - C. Cultural analytic tools

Suggested Readings:

The Bible, the Bible the Bible

The God Who is There – Francis Schaeffer

A Secular Age – Charles Taylor