

## **Why Is Today's Church Being Molded by the Culture: How Do We Recover the Message?**

Numerous Christian authors are now asking why many evangelical churches in the west look so much like the world contrary to the command of Romans 12:1-2. In spite of their honorable intentions to engage culture for the Gospel, evangelicals often undermine the effectiveness of their own message by not understanding culture. Although evangelicals have often stood against the basic philosophical features of non-Christian worldviews, at a practical level they have embraced much of what those non-Christian worldviews produced by way of pop culture. This talk looks at the social habits, fads, and trends to see how, when uncritically accepted by the church, they can be subversive to the Gospel message.

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Francis A. Schaeffer: "Despite claims of cultural relevance, an accommodating evangelism also leaves the destructive surrounding culture increasingly unchallenged."

"Ours is a post Christian world in which Christianity, not only in the numbers of Christians but in cultural emphasis in cultural result, is no longer the consensus or ethos of our society." Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview*. 5 vols. *The Great Evangelical Disaster* vol, 4 (Westchester, IL.: Crossway Books, 1982), 370, 314

### I. Modernity and its child of Progress

#### a. The loss of the universal

##### i. New is always better

##### ii. New gives more choices

II. Twin values of convenience and efficiency

- a. The move from qualitative concerns to quantitative concerns
- b. The ethos of consumerism

III. The church and the ethos of consumerism

- a. Ministry reflects the ethos of consumerism
  - i. What is technology doing for us and to us
- b. The ethos of consumerism reflects the world
  - i. What is lost and what is gained

Suggested reading:

Neil Postman. *Amusing Ourselves to Death*

Neil Postman. *Technopoly*

Shirley Turkle. *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*

Shirley Turkle. *Life on the Screen*

Arthur Hunt III. *Surviving Technopolis*

Arthur Hunt III. *The Vanishing Word*