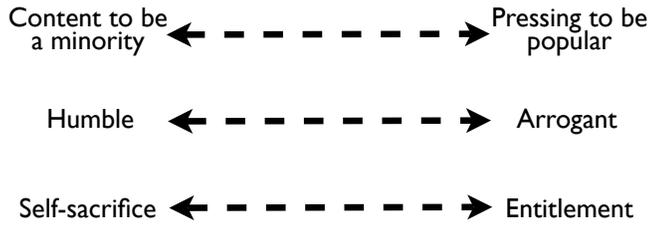


American Evangelical Culture's image?



2 Corinthians

11:5-11

The culture of the Kingdom

How are we to understand Kingdom Culture?

2 Corinthians 11

“5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. 6 But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things.”

“I may not be slick but I “get it” and that’s what counts.”

*Paul did not fit the “Apostolic Image.”
Jesus did not fit the “Messianic Image.”*

Kingdom Culture is centered on the Cross.

1 Corinthians 1

“18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.” . . . 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but **God has chosen** the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and **God has chosen** the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised, **God has chosen**, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, 29 that no man should boast before God.”

The “Word of the Cross” was not designed to win votes in the culture.

#1 Kingdom culture is about a remnant not about popular image.

Romans 11:5

“In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice.”

#1 Kingdom culture is about a remnant not about popular image.



American culture is too much about being popular.

2 Corinthians 11

“7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? 8 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to serve you; 9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia, they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.”

#2 Kingdom culture is about humility not entitlement.

American culture is too much about my rights and entitlements.

1 Corinthians 9

“11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we should reap material things from you? 12 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.”

Financial support for those in ministry

- ✓ Levites received a 10% tithe for their service.
- ✓ Apostles and Pastors were to be given financial support in ministry (1 Cor.9, 1 Tim.5:17-18)
- ✓ Most ministry was not given financial support.
- ✓ There is no record of unproven workers being given financial support.

2 Corinthians 11

“10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. 11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!”

#3 Kingdom culture is about sacrificial love not self-serving attachments.

American culture is too much about my personal freedom and self-interest.

2 Corinthians 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Paul



The Crown



The Cross

“But even if I am unskilled in speech, . . .

yet I am not so in knowledge”

False apostles



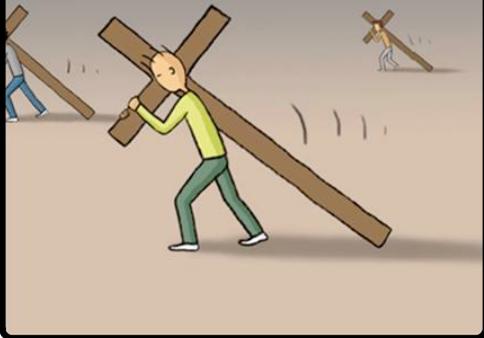
“But even if we don’t get it, . . .

we are looking good”

What kind of culture are we building?

- ✓ In reaching out to our world - **do we hide the cross?**
- ✓ In seeking personal peace - **do we expect a crown?**
- ✓ In our congregations of worship - **whose culture have we represented?**

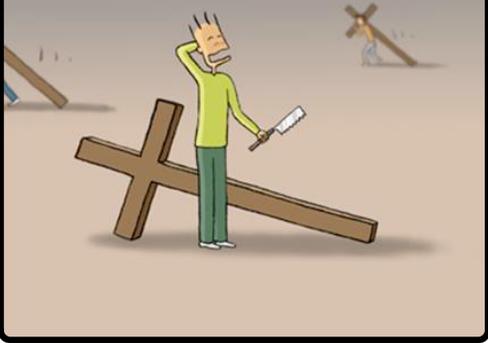
Lord, I will carry my cross as your disciple . . .



Lord, it's too heavy . . .
Please cut it down a little . . .



Lord, please cut it down a little more ...
I'll be able to carry it better ...



Lord, thank you so much ...



This is our bridge ...



Help! ...



**We complain about
the cross we bear
but don't realize
it is preparing us
for the dip in the
road that God can
see and we cannot.**