



***In It But Not of It***  
***“Features of A Crumbling Culture Part 2”***

**Selected Scripture**

Christians who desire to make everything culturally relevant struggle to withstand the satanic deception and attacks against the Word of God. Seeking to justify their desire and perspective, they slowly begin to believe lies instead of the Truth. Others within the body of Christ are subtly led astray with them. The problem is not Christianity being culturally relevant, because God Himself is relevant and very present. The problem is when Christians surrender the Truth and believe the lies concerning the authority of God and His Word.

In Part 1 of this message, we learned three Truths from Romans 1 that point to the cultural drift from God and how God responds to the turning away from Him and His truth. It has become painfully obvious that our culture is in the throws of the wrath of abandonment that Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32. The three features of a crumbling culture discussed last week are the following:

- ***Removing the absolute authority of God by disrespecting His Word. (Romans 1:18-23)***
- ***Replacing the truth of God for a lie by redefining Biblical norms in order to justify sinful relationships. (Romans 1:24-27)***
- ***Rejecting the person of God, which results in the persistent practice of sin. (Romans 1:28-32)***

There is a fourth and final feature of a crumbling culture that has been the fuel for the other three:

**REBELLION against God that is driven by the desire to be one’s own AUTHORITY. (Romans 1:30)**

The sins listed by Paul beginning in verse 29 and continuing through verse 32 are a result of a “...**depraved mind...**” In other words, a depraved mind is a mind that refuses to think in a way that is indicative of God’s authority. This incorrect thinking is completely self-centered. The ultimate objective of this mindset is the exaltation of self.

When believers treat each other with contempt, disrespect, and unloving attitudes, we are being driven by the ultimate sin of rebellion against God – the promotion and exaltation of self.

This sin of self-absorption goes back to the garden (Gen. 3). When Satan asked the subtle question of “**Indeed, has God said...**” he questioned the authority of God. His entire deception of Eve appealed to her pride.

Comfort and convenience rule the day; they are pervasive, even among Christians. Believers cringe at the truth of Jesus’ words that calls us to abandon “Team Me” and follow Him. (**cf. Luke 9:23-26**)

As followers of Jesus, we have not learned Christ in human terms, through human wisdom. We do not accept Christ by our terms. We accept Christ by His terms. The denial of self to the glory of God is the core of Christianity. It is the reason for which human beings were created.

Jesus, God incarnate, is our example of death to self. Jesus was both 100% God and 100% man. Jesus never used His deity to offset His humanity. He did this so we would have an example of what it means to be great in the eyes of the Father- so we would have a model of true Christianity. (*cf. Philippians 1:27-2:11*)

**APPLICATION:**

***SELFISHNESS is a cruel enemy. Fight against it with all your spiritual energy so that your life is marked by HUMILITY.*** (*cf. 1 Peter 5:6*)

***Christianity is not about YOU – your comfort, your convenience, or your will. It is about Christ living His life THROUGH you.*** (*cf. Colossians 1:18 & Colossians 1:24-27*)

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