

A Conservative Church and Western Culture

Being conservative means to support the preservation of established views. When it comes to “*the faith in Christ*” revealed in Holy Scripture this would be a right thing, Jude vs. 3. But “conservative” also has a political side to it. Are the two the same? Following are 7 truths in the New Testament that set apart the faithful church from western culture.

1. Singularity over Diversity

Culture glories in diversity – all choices, lifestyles, desires and religions are to be respected without judging. It’s called ‘love’ where the judging of evil is worse than the doing of evil. But “*the faith in Christ*” shows only *one* God, *one* Redeemer, *one* way to be saved and *one* authority to follow – for all. Plurality lifts man. Singularity lifts God.

2. Liberty is Not the Freedom or Right to Choose Your Way

Culture glories in choice – the freedom to decide for self. Christ’s liberty is being made free from restraints that keep one from following God, so you’re now able to freely choose God’s way (creative rights). “*Made free from sin, and become servants to God.*”

3. Free Speech is Not in the Church

Culture claims the right to speak one’s opinion and be heard. Human thoughts and feelings are the foundation. However, in Christ’s church, mouths that speak false doctrine, blasphemy or divisive words “*must be stopped*”. God’s truth in Christ Jesus the Lord is the foundation in Scripture alone. Others are to judge one’s speaking by this.

4. Conservatism is Moral (sexual immorality - hetero or homo - not to be in church)

Culture defines conservative as society’s political adherence to the intent of a written unchangeable constitution in contrast to stretching its principles to fit a changing society (liberal). But morality – sexual experiences or partners, divorces, remarriages – is not the issue in political conservatism. But in God’s holy house there’s discipline until repentance.

5. Woman has a Different Role than Man

Culture has evolved beyond equal vote and pay into equal authority and roles for women. But “*the faith in Christ*” teaches man is the main provider as head. The woman is to bear (not abort) children and keep the home. In church she is silent and covered unlike man.

6. Church Not Dependent Upon a Trained Professional to Lead

Culture now requires higher education (college, etc.) with skilled training as a necessity for most success. But in the church every believer is given a gift(s) and can use their gift (professional ability from the Spirit) with liberty to build up the Lord’s body (church).

7. Church Not Dependent Upon Marketing Technology to Grow and Worship

Culture, for global success, has many high tech ways to impress and reach the consumer. But “*the faith in Christ*” while using common tools, puts faith in the Lord to grow. The Lord Jesus said, “*I will build my church*”. And, one can worship God without electricity as the Spirit touches the heart with the loving gospel of Jesus Christ. “Only bread and only wine, yet to faith the solemn sign, of the heavenly and divine! We give thee thanks, O Lord”.

{**Some Scriptures for the 7 cultural distinctions.** / **1.** Isaiah 44:6, 45:22, / John 14:6, 6:66-69, 17:17
2. Exo. 5:1-5, 8:1 / Rom. 6:18, 22, 7:6, 8:2-4 / Isa. 45:5-12 **3.** Titus 1:10-11, 3:10 / 1Tim. 1:20 / 2Tim.
4:1-2 / 1Cor. 11:23-33 **4.** Luke 16:18 / Rom. 7:1-3 / 1Cor. 7:10,11, 39 / 1Cor. 5:9-13, 6:9-10 / 2Cor. 2:6-8
5. Eph. 5:23-33 / 1Tim. 2:9-13, 5:14 / Titus 2:1-5 / 1Cor. 11:1-16, 14:34, 35 **6.** 1Cor. 12, 14:23-31 / Rom.
12:3-8 **7.** Matt. 16:18 / Rom. 5:5-8 / 1Cor. 11:23-26 / Eph. 4:7-16 / Luke 24:45 / Acts 16:14 / 2Cor. 2:12.
/ *Hymn quote* – from Horatius Bonar in Believers Hymn Book, #49, verse 2}