

# **CURRENT CULTURE OR CHRIST-CENTERED?**

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Apparently there are a sizable number of cynical Christians today who are bowing before the altar of “current culture.”<sup>1</sup> The statement, “We must be less rigid about our traditional stances to meet the needs of the current culture,” bears out this observation.<sup>2</sup> Contrary to this popular view, a Christian’s conviction rests on unique facts that transcend cultural backgrounds and biases.

## **The Virgin Birth**

The Messianic Prophet foretold the marvelous events through which Christ would enter the world. In Isaiah 7:14 he wrote, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” The apostle Matthew discussed details of the conception of Christ including the inspired observation that before his mother, Mary, came together with Joseph, her espoused husband, “she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:18). Matthew wrote, “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (vv. 22-23). Matthew took his readers back more than 700 years to the scriptures penned by Isaiah for verification of the validity of the claim of Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. Throughout all the ages of mankind there has been only one virgin birth. The craze for the adaptation of the Bible to the “current culture” is not “Christ-centered.”

## **The Life of Christ**

The life of Christ has impacted the world beyond that of any other person in history. Reflection on his humble beginnings, the limitation of his personal travels, and his dependence on the benevolence of others even to the extent of having his body placed into the borrowed tomb of a rich man, all suggest a power associated with his life above that which is temporal. The lessons he taught and the miracles he did were all backed by a pure and sinless life (Matt. 27:24; I Pet. 2:21-25). The world could not contain the books which could be written about the things he did while here on earth (John 21:25). The life of Christ has transcended the centuries unaffected by whatever the choices of the “current culture” have been. At this moment there are people all around the world whose lives are set in widely varied

cultural settings who are living Christ centered lives. The permanent principles of Christian living are not attached to nor are they emerging from some “current culture.” Christians let the word of Christ dwell in them richly (Col. 3:16).

### **The Crucifixion**

Another of the unique events that comprises one of the fundamental facts essential for salvation is the crucifixion of Christ. Hebrews 9:28 says, “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” He is not crucified without ceasing for every developing cultural change in order to make his sacrifice meaningful for people living two millenniums removed from the first century world. The blood he shed on Calvary is as effectual at this moment as when the crimson fountain was first opened (Zech. 13:1; John 19:34-35).

### **The Resurrection**

The preaching of the apostles declared the resurrection of Christ from the dead (Acts 2:31-32; 3:26). Paul wrote, “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (I Cor. 15:20). Note that Christ *is* risen from the dead, and another unique event, which will not be repeated, urges all people for all time to live a “Christ-centered” life without falling prey to the fads of the “current culture.”

### **ENDNOTES**

1Jeff W. Childers, Douglas A. Foster, and Jack R. Reese, *The Crux of the Matter* (Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2001), p. 141.

2*Ibid.*