

“Concluding Thoughts on the New Humanity in Christ” (Eph 6:21–24)  
12/26/21, GCC Sunday School

**Introduction**—How do we wage peace in the world as the New Humanity in Christ?

- I. Waging Peace requires knowing what time it is
  - A. Three ages of Christianity (this is very quick and dirty)
    1. Ancient Christianity (Ascension to 1650)
    2. Modernity. 1650–1914ish
    3. Post–modernity. 1914–present
  - B. Christianity in the cafeteria vs. Christianized Culture
  - C. Christianity became institutionalized with Constantine.
  - D. In many ways, we are back to Christianity in the cafeteria and we must wage peace much like the early church.
  - E. Early Christian “social project”
  - F. They were “in the world, not of the world”
  
- II. Overcoming cultural impediments through **Evangelism**
  - A. Are you trying to change the world?
  - B. Be on the look-out for “cultural impediments” and seek to overcome them.
  - C. Don’t lose sight of the gospel.
  - D. Overcome the cultural impediment of the **suspicion of authority** by being intentional and personal
  - E. Overcome the cultural impediment of **competing narratives** by questioning people’s answers before you answer people’s questions (Prov 20:5)
  - F. Overcome the cultural impediment of “**pluralism**” and “**relevance**” by **keeping the Gospel as “the good news”**
  
- III. Purging the church of the demons of the *zeitgeist* through **Discipleship**
  - A. Discipleship is primarily about remembering old things rather than learning new things
  - B. Discipleship is about passing on the “deposit” from one generation to the next generation
  - C. The deposit of our discipleship must be updated for every generation in its language and context, not in its content.
  
- IV. Salting the world with lives changed (and being changed) by the gospel
  - A. Moral Conduct as attractive life that draws people to the gospel
  - B. The Battle is Spiritual, not physical
  
- V. Waging Peace with the World through Worship
  - A. Worship completes the picture by giving unbelievers a glimpse into the holy of holies of the New Humanity in Christ

**Questions:**

1. We can likely all agree on what's wrong with culture and where it is headed. But in what ways is the trajectory of our culture something of an encouragement for Christian witness?
2. What kind of "cultural impediments" to the gospel have you encountered and how did you respond?
3. What is the difference "questioning people's answers" and "answering people's questions" in evangelism?
4. How is "individualism" a cultural impediment to sharing the gospel and how do you seek to overcome it in your evangelism?
5. How is "individualism" a cultural impediment to discipleship?
6. In what ways should our discipleship and catechesis *conform* to the culture and in what ways should it *resist conformity to the culture*?
7. Which is more effective in "changing the world," liturgy or politics? Why?