

CULTURAL RELATIVISM

The founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth, was an acclaimed devout believer in Christ. He died in 1912 at the age of 83. His greatest burden as the 20th century was being ushered in towards his final days on earth was summed up in some timely predictions. After surveying his era in 1900, he boldly predicted four very startling scenarios for the American church over the next century. He said in 100 years from now, by the year 2,000, this is what Christians can expect Christianity to look like:

- 1) Christianity without Christ.
- 2) Forgiveness without repentance.
- 3) Salvation without regeneration
- 4) Heaven without hell.

“The living faith of the dead will become the dead faith of the living.” In the pursuit of cultural relativism, one must be cognizant of the “requisites of motions” involved. These requisites recognize and subsequently respond to the ebb and flow of a culture that is in constant flux. These requisites of motions apply two infallible principles to maintain consistency of relevance:

- 1) The removal of any absolutes.
- 2) A residual and ongoing attitude of compromise.

Spiritual Compromise: Incorporating the comforts of life to such a degree as to not clash with the current culture. Our Response: The anchor and rock for the Church have always been the scriptures. The Word of God. But if the Word is no longer an absolute or else it is up for a cultural oil change every 3,000 miles; then it increasingly loses its significance and influence. It becomes a powerless and lifeless document. An archaic historical document no longer relevant and to be viewed through the lenses of history only. It too is sacrificed on the altars of cultural relevance, thus reducing it to spiritual irrelevance.

Bill Pitman