

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending downwards. The text is centered within the open space of the frame.

CULTURAL CHANGES IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Jeff McNair, Ph.D.

Traditions vs. the Commands of God



- Mark 7
- You ignore the commands of God
- You skillfully sidestep the commands of God
- You refuse to obey the commands of God
- ...and you do many things like that

12 Potential areas for Cultural Change

1. Facilitating presence
2. Who is invited to friendship?
3. Religious education/faith development –
Practice/Goals/Outcomes
4. Affirming what should be affirmed in our culture
5. The typical worship service
6. Providing opportunities for involvement/roles
7. Creating platforms for prophetic voices
8. Seeing needs and addressing them
9. Programs versus relationships
10. Evangelize people with disabilities and disciple them
11. Broadening acceptable social skills
12. Ecumenical cooperation in supporting people with disabilities
and their families

12 Areas for Cultural Change

1. Facilitating presence

Good Samaritan

“I feel like I am not ignored”

12 Areas for Cultural Change

2. Who is invited to friendship?

Chicago Church

12 Areas for Cultural Change

3. Religious education/faith development – Practice/Goals/Outcomes

What specifically are we trying to achieve?

Our “paradigm”

What does our history tell us?

12 Areas for Cultural Change

4. Affirming what should be affirmed in our culture

What things are we doing well that don't need to be changed?

12 Areas for Cultural Change

5. The typical worship service

What must stay the same?

What things are culture/traditions that can or should be changed?

12 Areas for Cultural Change

6. Providing opportunities for involvement/roles

Who serves in what ways in the church?

What roles might be developed for those with more limited abilities

12 Areas for Cultural Change

8. Creating platforms for prophetic voices

Grandmother example

Love God and love your neighbor

12 Areas for Cultural Change

9. Seeing needs and addressing them

Does loving our neighbors cost us anything?

What demands are we willing to place on our members?

12 Areas for Cultural Change

10. Evangelize people with disabilities and disciple them

- Are people with disabilities a priority for ministry?
- What is the evidence that they are a priority for ministry?
- If they aren't a priority for ministry, why aren't they?

“Whose people” are those who attend with disabilities?

12 Areas for Cultural Change

11. Broadening acceptable social skills

What might be acceptable changes in expected social skills within the church?

Are social skill traditions causing us to exclude persons whom we should be including?

12 Areas for Cultural Change

12. Ecumenical cooperation in supporting people with disabilities and their families

Could the support of persons with disabilities be something that could bring different denominations together?

From the Lord of the Rings

Haldir an elf says something to the effect

“The power of the enemy is seen in the disarray of those who oppose him.”

THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING!

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