

A COUNTER-CULTURAL CHRISTIAN

Summary of Ephesians

God calls Christians to be counter-cultural.

Counter-cultural defined: It is culture that has ideas and ways of behaving that are consciously and deliberately very different from the cultural values of the larger society that it is part of.

Two themes in Ephesians set committed Christians apart from others.

I. Their Salvation Convictions - Chapters 1-3

II. Their Sanctification Convictions - Chapters 4-6

I. THEIR SALVATION CONVICTIONS - Chapters 1-3

A. THE GIFT OF SALVATION (1:3-14)

1. Our Confession: God's sovereign kindness
2. The Contrast: Man's inherent worth

B. THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION (1:15-21)

1. Our Confession: Our salvation is certain and secure (18)
2. The Contrast: Men are hopeful but hesitant

C. THE MEANS OF SALVATION (2:1-10)

1. Our Confession: Salvation by grace (8-9)
2. The Contrast: Salvation by works

D. THE OUTCOME OF SALVATION (2:11-22)

1. Our Confession: Reconciliation through redemption (13-16)
2. The Contrast: Reconciliation by resolution

E. THE PROCLAMATION OF SALVATION (3:1-13)

1. Our Confession: The gospel must be proclaimed (8)
2. The Contrast: A man's religion is private

F. THE FULLNESS OF SALVATION (3:14-21)

1. Our Confession: The power of the Spirit (16-19)
2. The Contrast: Ritual without relationship

II. THEIR SANCTIFICATION CONVICTIONS - Chapters 4-6

- A distinct understanding of God's goals for those who are saved ... His expectations

A. BE SELFLESS (4:1-6)

1. Our Conduct: Love (2)
2. The Contrast: Selfishness

B. BE INVOLVED (4:7-16)

1. Our Conduct: Serving and maturing in the local church
2. The Contrast: Sitting and selfish in the local church

C. BE TRANSFORMED (4:17-32)

1. Our Conduct: Godly righteousness expected (22-24)
2. The Contrast: Carnal worldliness exhibited

D. BE TEACHABLE (5:1-21)

1. Our Conduct: Imitating Christ
2. The Contrast: Ignoring Christ

E. BE HONORABLE (5:22-6:9)

1. Our Conduct: Spirit-controlled relationships
 - a. Respectfully submitted wives (5:22-24)
 - b. Lovingly sacrificial husbands (5:25-30)
 - c. Permanently committed partners (5:31) > Faithful for a lifetime
 - d. Obedient and thoughtful children (6:1-3)
 - e. Temperate and teaching fathers (6:4)
 - f. Compliant and committed employees (6:5-8)
 - g. Sincere and sweet employers (6:9)
2. The Contrast: Sin-controlled relationships - See Gen. 27

F. BE STRONG (6:10-20)

1. Our Conduct: Armed for battle
2. The Contrast: Afflicted by the Devil

CONCLUSION:

God calls Christians to be counter-cultural.

See I Peter 2:9-12