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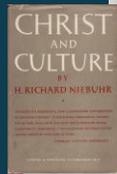
The Bible Applied to Life

1. How to Apply the Bible
2. How the Bible Shapes our Actions
3. Conversations between Bible and Culture
4. Putting it into Practice



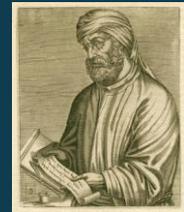
Christ and Culture

- Christ of culture
- Christ against culture
- Mediating position



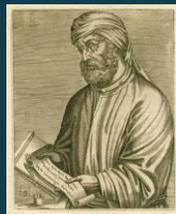
What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?

"What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem? What concord is there between the Academy and the Church? What between heretics and Christians?"



What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?

Col 2:8
See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.



Plundering the Egyptians

- "[B]y the command of God, the Egyptians themselves, in their ignorance, providing them with things which they themselves were not making a good use of; in the same way all branches of heathen learning have not only false and superstitious fancies and heavy burdens of unnecessary toil... but they contain also liberal instruction which is better adapted to the use of the truth, and some most excellent precepts of morality..."



Plundering the Egyptians

... Now these are, so to speak, their gold and silver, which they did not create themselves, but dug out of the mines of God's providence which are everywhere scattered abroad".



Plundering the Egyptians

Exodus 3:21

'And I will make the Egyptians favourably disposed towards this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²² Every woman is to ask her neighbour and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.'



Plundering the Egyptians

Exodus 12:35

The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing.

³⁶ The Lord had made the Egyptians favourably disposed towards the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.



Plundering the Egyptians

Exodus 25:1

The Lord said to Moses, ² 'Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering...

³ These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze...

⁸ 'Then let them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.



Paul as Cultural Theologian

- Philosophy
 - Stoic
 - Epicurian
- Poetry
 - Epimenides
 - Aratus
 - Menander

(Acts 17:28; 1 Cor 15:33, Titus 1:12)



Paul as Cultural Theologian

1 Cor 9:7

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk?

⁸ Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing?

⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: 'Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.' Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Surely he says this for us, doesn't he?



Paul as Cultural Theologian

² Tim 2:3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.



Jesus as Cultural Theologian



Wisdom as Cultural Theology



WISDOM



Wisdom as Cultural Theology

Prov 6:6

Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!
⁷ It has no commander,
no overseer or ruler,
⁸ yet it stores its provisions in
summer
and gathers its food at harvest.



WISDOM



Science and the Bible

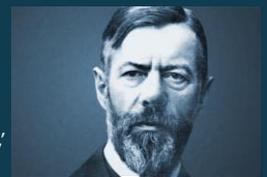


THEOLOGY



Science and the Bible

"Under these internal presuppositions, what is the meaning of science as a vocation, now after all these former illusions, the 'way to true being,' the 'way to true art,' the 'way to true nature,' the 'way to true God,' the 'way to true happiness,' have been dispelled? ..."



Science and the Bible

"Tolstoy has given the simplest answer, with the words: Science is meaningless because it gives no answer to our question, the only question important for us: "What shall we do and how shall we live?"..."



Science and the Bible

"That science does not give an answer to this is indisputable. The only question that remains is the sense in which science gives 'no' answer, and whether or not science might yet be of some use to the one who puts the question correctly."



Psychology and the Bible

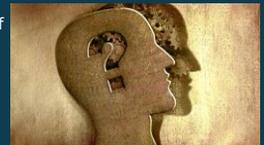
What is the ideal Psyche?



Psychology and the Bible

Jerome Kagen:

"the current generation of young adults was socialized to treat the self as the most significant object to enhance. The current ethical imperative demands that each person devote most of their energy to acquiring characteristics that add to the self's accomplishments, beauty, power, or wealth."



Psychology and the Bible



Psychology and the Bible

What does the ideal human psyche look like?

"self-renunciation,
servant-hearted,
other-regarding
loving heart & mind"



Labelling Theory and Bible

Jesus' ministry included:

- *re-naming* behaviour that was falsely labelled "sinful"
- *re-making* people who have actually sinned or have suffered misfortune



Labelling Theory and Bible

- Re-naming Strategy
- 'Samaritan' label
 - Falsely called evil
 - couldn't change label
 - Label is 're-named'
- Samaritan = 'Very Good'
 - Samaritans included in church



Labelling Theory and Bible

- Re-naming Strategy
- "McJob" in Oxford English Dictionary
 - "Over half our Executive Team started in our restaurants. Not bad for a McJob."



Labelling Theory and Bible

- Re-naming Strategy
- Parable of the 'Good Punk Rocker'



Labelling Theory and Bible

- Re-making Strategy
- Change the circumstances of the labelled person
- Invalid at Pool of Bethesda
 - Jesus asked him, "Do you want to get well?"



Keep the Conversation Going

