

The Dangers of Inculturation

We continue our series on modesty by looking at what inculturation is and how it attacks our Christian modesty and ultimately the church itself.

Inculturation is the adaptation of Biblical teachings to reflect the thinking or feeling of a particular culture. Inculturation is a long standing heresy of catholicism that allows the teaching of the church to be changed by its host culture in order to make it more palatable. Inculturation did not appear with catholicism, it has been alive and well throughout the history of mankind.

The aim of modesty is to protect our Christian testimony so that it may be pure, compelling and useful. The aim of inculturation is to destroy our modesty, dilute our testimony, and nullify the church.

As you listen to this series ask God to open your eyes to inculturation in the life of you, your loved ones, and your church.

Psalms 1:1-6 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: (2) But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. (3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (4) The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. (5) Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. (6) For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

Romans 12:1-21 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service. (2) And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (3) For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith. (4) For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: (5) so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another. (6) And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of our faith; (7) or ministry, *let us give ourselves* to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching; (8) or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting: he that giveth, *let him do it* with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. (9) Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. (10) In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another; (11) in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; (12) rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing stedfastly in prayer; (13) communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. (14) Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not. (15) Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep. (16) Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own conceits. (17) Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men. (18) If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. (19) Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord. (20) But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. (21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.