

# Cultural Drift vs Church of the Firstborn - Hebrews Pt 13

**Why would you turn back....** Heb 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, (23) **to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. .....** Heb 13 describes the church as it should be - one that looks nothing like the culture that surrounds it-

CULTURE: Cancel Culture (The pressure is to erase, boycott, or walk away from anyone who disappoints us, disagrees with us, or costs us something.)

- Heb 13:1-6 Let **brotherly love** continue.(2) Do not neglect to show **hospitality** to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.(3) **Remember** those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since **you also are in the body.**

**JESUS: We love because HE FIRST LOVED US...we choose love, love of stranger, and compassion - Shift from self-protective isolation to radical, outward compassion**

CULTURE: Self-ruled sexuality - focus on sexual freedom and personal choice.. The constant pressure says, "Do what you want, when you want." Hook up. Move in. Redefine the rules. Follow the feeling.

- (4) Let **marriage** be held in **honor** among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

**Sexual holiness isn't about old outdated rules—it's about choosing to honor covenant faithfulness**  
**JESUS - God is not against pleasure. He designed intimacy.He's not trying to take something from us - He's guarding something sacred. And because it's holy, He will judge those who distort it.**

CULTURE: Greed's endless chase for more - materialism - status - upgrades. The pressure says your worth is tied to your paycheck, your house, your truck, your next step up. It anchors identity to accumulation.

- (5) Keep your life free from **love of money.** and be **content** with what you have, for he has said, "I will **never leave** you **nor forsake you.**" (6) So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my **helper**; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

**JESUS - We can be content not because we have enough, but because we have Him. Our security isn't in what we own, but in who owns us. He will not leave us, or forsake us, He is my helper**

CULTURE: Truth becomes flexible - relativism - elevate feelings or experience over God's unchanging word - only 10-30% of Christians hold a biblical worldview

- 7 Remember your leaders, those **who spoke to you the word of God.** Consider the outcome of their **way of life**, and imitate **their faith.** 8 **Jesus Christ is the same** yesterday and today and forever. 9 Do not be led away by **diverse and strange teachings**, for it is good for the **heart** to be **strengthened by grace**, not by foods, **which have not benefited those devoted to them.**

**JESUS But Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Don't get carried away by every new and strange teaching...test what you hear on the internet with the unchanging Christ, and put some level of confidence in your local leaders.**

CULTURE:Image management ( looking good instead of being real - social approval, likes, and projecting an idealized self. Chasing approval can lead to compromise...facebook likes vs Jesus' approval)

- 12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. 13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and **bear the reproach he endured.** 14 For **here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.**

**JESUS suffered outside the gate, (OT sacrifice) endure reproach with Him, we have no lasting city here**

CULTURE: Entertainment driven faith (church is a product or service "What am I getting out of this?")

- 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a **sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect **to do good and to share what you have**, for such **sacrifices** are pleasing to God.

**JESUS - we offer a sacrifice of praise...it costs us something...we do good and share what we have, it is a sacrifice, It costs us something...and yet with these God is pleased**

CULTURE: Distant celebrity influence (high profile scandal and coverup cause us to be increasingly suspicious of all leaders, and we drop off or become isolated and self directing - a law unto ourselves)

- Vs 7 Remember your leaders, those **who spoke to you the word of God**. Consider the outcome of their **way of life**, and imitate **their faith**.....17 **Obey your leaders and submit to them**, for they are **keeping watch over your souls**, as those who will have to **give an account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**JESUS - Leaders speak the word of God & give account to GOD → keeping watch over your soul.**

- **Leaders are called to a way of life that lines up and faith you can imitate (they are known)**
- **And the people are called to obey and submit to them not blindly, not without discernment**
- **Hebrews is not giving leaders a blank check; nor is it giving followers a free pass to reject accountability**
- **It is describing a relationship where leaders and people both live under Christ. The church of the firstborn rejects both celebrity culture and anti-authority culture.**

## ENDING

.....20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 **equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

We frame **these cultural drifts as personal freedom, social dynamics, or identity choices. my comfort. My image. My money. My preferences. My sense of control. My safety.**

Yet the church of the firstborn calls us to something more costly. It calls you outside the camp. It calls you to covenant faithfulness. It calls you to generosity, to submission, to endurance. It calls you to stay when you want to leave, to give when you want to keep, and to stand when you want to blend in.

**Because this is the church whose names are written in heaven.**

Cancel culture	→ Love because He first loved us
Sex on my terms	→ Honor covenant
Never enough	→ Content HE will never forsake
Build-your-own truth	→ God's unchanging Word
Image management	→ Endure reproach
Consumer	→ Sacrifice of praise & deeds
Celebrity influence	→ Local accountable relationships