

TOV: The Foundations of a Better Culture

A man was visiting a congregation one Sunday. He enjoyed the passionate preaching and occasionally said out loud, "Praise the Lord." After a few more, 'Praise the Lord,' someone came over and said to him, "Sir, we don't praise the Lord here."



CULTURE: the atmosphere, feel or the norm of a place. Every home, every organization and every congregation has a "feel" to it.

- Some have presented GOD as one that you can never please, who is always angry and suspicious of you and who is rule oriented.
 - All the major creeds omit the word LOVE
- Some have fought any and all change, believing that what was done in the past is not only one way, but the only way things should be done.

A. TOV is a Hebrew word that is translated "_____." It has a deeper meaning that implies something fulfills its purpose. TOV is used to describe something that is beautiful, life-giving and morally good.

- Genesis 1:11-12, God declared the process of plant reproduction through the carrying of seeds as "good" (TOV).
- Genesis 50:20 Joseph tells his brothers that their selling him was intended to be evil, but God meant it for good (TOV) because it brought the safety and salvation to many.
- The N.T. concept of this would be Romans 8:28, where God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love God, to those called according to His purpose.

This process could be defined as a CULTURE

1 Pet 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

Mt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

B. The Mountain Top Sermon: The inside view of the Kingdom (Mt 5:3-10)

- Mt 4:23-5:2

Moses went _____ God (Ex 19:3)

Jesus was a prophet like Moses (Deut 18:15): more than a lawgiver...a deliverer...a savior



1. Develop this culture _____ yourselves
2. Do not _____ like everyone else
3. The qualities are spiritual and spring from the insides

⇒ What is Blessed? _____

(Ps 1:1; 2:12)

2 Tim 2:15 present yourself _____ to God



⇒ What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

Church:
Family:
Kingdom:



Beethoven's Piano

- The kingdom of Heaven is about men and women who have bowed the knee to King Jesus and serve Him faithfully and loyally because He rules their hearts

The Beatitudes

1. Are not _____ choices—they stand or fall together
2. They are _____ in nature. One leading to the next.
3. They begin _____ with our relationship towards _____ and move _____ with our relationship towards _____

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Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven (5:3)

- how does the "in spirit" qualify the poverty?
- _____ (Isa 41:17-18; 61:1-2)

Alas, and did my Savior bleed: for such a worm as I
That line was changed to: for sinners such as I
Later: for such a one as I

Amazing Grace: how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me

The person who is welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven is the person who realizes he or she is not amazing. Not self-sufficient. Not perfect.

We are weak not strong. We are needy not filled. We have failed. Without God we will never succeed.

- The expression here is: blessed " _____ " - not blessed when you _____

- Being poor in spirit changes how I see _____
- Being poor in spirit changes how I see _____
Lk 15:19 Make me in contrast to give me (12)
- Being poor in spirit changes how I see _____
How can I be judgmental and condemning others for the wrongs they have done, when I realize what I have done

