

During the Saturday services, Rev. Dr. AR Bernard preached an awesome word on *Christ in Culture*. Here is a brief outline of what he spoke about:

Saturday, 3:30pm Service

Christ In Culture

- Christ in culture actually means Christ working dynamically in fallen human nature.
- The Church should not be isolated from the world.
- Jesus changed culture by building relationships with others
 - o He was accessible, relevant, and could connect to others. He made God real and accessible.
- Therefore, the Church should be in the business of redemption, and not condemnation. The Church must be an agent of change by having a dynamic and progressive culture.

- How does God transform people?
 - o Through his people! (2 Cor 5:18-21)
 - o The glory of God cannot be seen until it is manifested in a human's life.

- God's glory is His character and presence.
 - o God invested His character and presence through one person – Jesus Christ. (Heb 1:3)
 - o Jesus went around doing good – goodness is the essence of God's character
 - o God's goodness is essentially His holiness and love.
 - God loves us without condition and does so redemptively.
 - We practice holiness when we set spiritual and ethical boundaries.

- We are responsible to demonstrate God's character and holiness because the presence of God transforms lives and communities!
- In Jesus' ministry, Jesus functioned in the fivefold ministry gifts (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Teacher, Pastor)
- But His primary roles were: Prophet, Priest, King
- Jesus took over the role of the prophet, was a great High Priest who could sympathise with our needs and offered Himself as the sacrifice, and took over the kingly role.
- If Jesus is our example, the Church should also function in the fivefold ministry.
- Similarly, our primary roles are to be: Prophet, Priest, King

Prophetic Role

- Church has to speak justice in society by demonstrating and representing what is morally and ethically fair, by setting a standard
- Church also has to proclaim Jesus' ministry on earth

Priestly Role

- Church should embody the compassion of God by showing concern for those who are suffering
- Jesus had compassion for people and expressed the love of God to people

Kingly Role

- Church should assist institutes that they may be able to help people live productive lives

- Luke 10:25-37
 - o The expert in the law wanted to test Jesus but we see that he only thought about himself.
 - o Jesus challenged the man's perspective on the role of the Church in society. We must understand that anything new will be tested by people who don't understand
 - o In v27, the man revealed his selfishness. All he wanted to do was to love God and not have to deal with other people. But he failed to understand that society will see God when we relate to them with compassion.
 - o Jesus responded to the expert in the law with the story of the Good Samaritan
 - To have love and compassion for people!
 - o In v30-37 – There was a demonstration of the priestly role of Christians
 - To be secure, confident, unafraid, financially empowered to bless others
 - When we show compassion to others by manifesting God's character and presence to people, we have an open door to speak to peoples' lives!

- There are 5 types of people as shown in the verses:
 - o 1: Expert in the law (took the wounded man as a subject of discussion. Let's stop discussing about people, but do something to help them)
 - o 2: Bandits (exploited the wounded man)
 - o 3: Priest (avoided the wounded man)
 - o 4. Innkeeper (wounded man just another customer and person in the world)
 - o 5. Good Samaritan (wounded man was worth caring for – he brought reconciliation)

To Jesus, all of them were worth dying for.