



Thinking Biblically about 2020

Week 7: How should Christians in 2021 respond to 2020?

Mickey Klink

(1) What are some of the important lessons Christians should learn from 2020?

(2) What are some ways Christians can respond differently in 2021 than we did in 2020?

- Things we should KNOW:
 - We are now living and ministering in a “third world culture.”
 - A third world culture will make politics transcendent and dominant
 - Like a century ago, the Evangelical tradition is fracturing over culture.
 - The church in 2020 was lacking corporate unity, personal flexibility, and biblical priority.
 - In light of all its personal and corporate failures, the church is essential in the life of the Christian and the world.

- Things we should DO:
 - We should implement a ministry strategy for a third world culture.
 - Make the Kingdom Great Again!
 - We need to balance Evangelical convictions with a humble, John 17 “catholicity.”
 - We need to unite on theology and make room for Christian liberty.
 - We need to speak and act more like Christ.

Colossians 3:12-17: ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Application:

- How would you think and act differently if you were to go through a year like 2020 again?
- Some practical suggestions:
 - Be more critical of your preferred news sources.
 - Either get rid of social media entirely or use it sparingly.
 - No more “ghosting” (symptom of anti-culture); talk to your pastor-elders.
 - Assume that sin and its distortions are not only “out there” but “in us.”
 - Use anger or fear as a litmus test that something is misaligned or off-balance in us!
 - Be comfortable with different opinions and let them critique and challenge our own.
 - Act like Jesus has already won and the gospel is the most important thing.