

“A Revived People in a Renewed City”

Nehemiah 11:1-12:26

Pastor Stephen Schultze / Sunday, August 12, 2012



Nehemiah’s Revitalization Plan

1. **Intentional** _____. (11:1-2)
Scripture: Nehemiah 7:3-4
2. **Thoughtful** _____. (11:3-24)
3. **Active** _____. (11:2-12:26)
4. **Righteous** _____. (11:2, 10-24, 36, 12:1-26)
Scripture: Psalms 11:2-3; Psalms 78:1-8 ESV

Here are 5 possible attitudes towards the City (i.e.- the culture) in which we live:

1. _____ **the City:** Distinct identity is lost in blending and adapting.
2. _____ **the City:** Some aspects of faith and practice are maintained, but values and worldviews of the culture are adopted.
3. _____ **the City:** A view of superiority and hostility leads to intentional isolation.
4. _____ **the City:** Ignores individual role and responsibility and leads to unintentional isolation.
5. _____ **the City:** Engage the culture in ways that REVEAL the distinctiveness of the values of the kingdom of God.

Adapted from “Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything” by T. Keller

What is YOUR attitude towards YOUR city...YOUR CULTURE?

Cities matter to God:

- Consider **Jonah**...sent to Ninevah to warn them of God’s impending judgment.
- Consider **Paul**...sent to city after city to proclaim Christ.
- Consider **God’s command** to the Israelites in exile in Babylon in **Jeremiah 29:4-7**.

We must be a _____-centered _____
which lives within the _____ (culture).

Note the three elements of effective Christian presence in the city/culture:

1. _____ **in the city:** This is the WHERE of living.

This should be our goal:
To have a _____ everywhere in the city.

2. **Be a _____ within the city.** This is the WHAT of living in the city.

Scripture: John 13:35; 1 John 4:11-12; Matthew 5:14-16

**The love of God which we _____ to others,
appears only as good as the love which people _____ in us.**

3. **We must be a _____ - _____.**
This is the WHY of our community.

Conclusion: How will you lovingly engage the culture around you?

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Nehemiah’s Revitalization Plan

1. **Intentional Repopulation.** (11:1-2)
Scripture: Nehemiah 7:3-4
2. **Thoughtful Organization.** (11:3-24)
3. **Active Participation.** (11:2-12:26)
4. **Righteous Foundation.** (11:2, 10-24, 36, 12:1-26)
Scripture: Psalms 11:2-3; Psalms 78:1-8 ESV

Here are 5 possible attitudes towards the City—the culture in which we live:

1. **Assimilating the City:** Distinct identity is lost in blending and adapting.
2. **Reflecting the City:** Some aspects of faith and practice are maintained, but values and worldviews of the culture are adopted.
3. **Despising the City:** A view of superiority and hostility leads to intentional isolation.
4. **Ignoring the City:** Ignores individual role and responsibility and leads to unintentional isolation.
5. **Loving the City:** Engage the culture in ways that REVEAL the distinctiveness of the values of the kingdom of God.

Adapted from “Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything” by T. Keller

What is YOUR attitude towards YOUR city...YOUR CULTURE?

Cities matter to God:

- Consider **Jonah**...sent to Ninevah to warn them of God’s impending judgment.
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**We must be a Gospel-centered community
which lives within the city (culture).**

Note the three elements of effective Christian presence in the city:

1. **Live** in the city. This is the WHERE of living.

This should be our goal:
To have a **visible presence** everywhere in the city.

2. Be a **community** within the city. This is the WHAT of living in the city.

Scripture: John 13:35; 1 John 4:11-12; Matthew 5:14-16

The love of God which we **commend** to others
appears only as good as the love which people **see** in us.

3. We must be a **Gospel-centered community**. This is the WHY of our community.

Conclusion: How will you lovingly engage the culture around you?