

**EXERCISE:
THEOLOGY AND CULTURE+**

EXERCISE ONE

THEOLOGY CULTURE

This exercise is intended to help you test your own theological consistency on a number of issues that Protestants in various denominations have felt important. As a Christian in a cross-cultural setting, you will need to learn the difference between those elements which are essential to the church in every culture, and those elements which are not.

Part One

Your first task in this exercise is to separate all the items that follow into two categories based on these definitions:-

Essential These items (commands, practices, customs) are essential to the church in every culture and age.

Negotiable These items (commands, practices, customs) may or may not be valid for the church in any given place or time (list follows).

Part Two

Now that you have separated the above items into categories, reflect on the process by which you distinguished the essential from the negotiable items. What principle or principles governed your decisions? Write out the method you used in a simple, concise statement. Be completely honest with yourself and accurately describe how you made your decisions. Your principle(s) should account for *every* decisions.

Part Three

Review again your decisions and answer the following questions:

- are your "essential" items so important to you that you could not associate with a group that did not practice all of them?
 - Are there some "essential" items that are a little more "essential" than others?
 - Are there any items that have nothing to do (explicitly) with Scripture at all?
1. Greet each other with a holy kiss.
 2. Don't go to court to settle issues between Christians.
 3. Don't eat meat used in pagan ceremonies.
 4. Women in the assembly should be veiled when praying or speaking.
 5. Wash feet at the Lord's Supper (Eucharist).
 6. Lay on hands for ordination.

7. Sing without musical accompaniment.
8. Abstain from eating blood.
9. Abstain from fornication.
10. Share the Lord's Supper (Eucharist) together.
11. Use only real wine and unleavened bread for your eucharistic meals.
12. Use only grape juice for eucharistic meals.
13. Anoint with oil for healing.
14. Women are not to teach men.
15. Women are not to wear braided hair, gold or pearls.
16. Men are not to have long hair.
17. Don't drink wine at all.
18. Slavery is permissible if you treat slaves well.
19. Remain single.
20. Seek the gift of tongues.
21. Seek the gift of healing.
22. Lift your hands when you pray.
23. People who don't work don't eat.
24. Have a private "devotional time" everyday.
25. Say "amen" at the end of prayers.
26. Appoint elders and deacons in every congregation.
27. Elect the leaders.
28. Confess sins one to another.
29. Confess sins privately to God.
30. Give at least 10% of your income/goods/crops to God.
31. Build a building for worship.
32. Confess Christ publicly by means of baptism.
33. Be baptized by immersion.
34. Be baptized as an adult.
35. Be baptized as a child/infant.
36. Don't be a polygamist.
37. Do not divorce your spouse for any reason.
38. Do not divorce your spouse except for adultery.

RESPONSES TO CASES:

	By the Individual	By the Church
Immediate responses:		
Long term responses:		