

Veneer: Living Deeply in a Surface Society



What life do you want to live?
What life are you living?

**I may not have gone where I intended to go,
but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.**

- Douglas Adams



inverted

- Paragraph that starts, “When we have a society...”
- Progress + self + veneer = separation from God
- “As individuals, our morals twist toward those of the masses. We stop questioning the things we once questioned as the rest of the world slowly pulls us along.”
- I liked the description in the footnote – individualism versus individuality

inverted

- Interesting discussion regarding “the church”
- The history isn’t always pretty regarding the church (religion)
- Even more interesting about the reformation every 400 years and that this is about that time...
- Section discussing accepting the norms of society..

inverted

- “It’s one thing to understand the felt needs of those who are hearing the gospel message but quite another to diminish the actual message, which is what happens when the church applies the veneers of society.”
- Is the church adapting to society?
- Should it?
- Why or why not?

inverted

- Give me a list of different forms of churches today:
 - Home church
 - Simple church
 - Deep church
 - Emerging church
 - Online church
 - Missional church
 - Etc.

inverted

- “God is not a sideshow.”
- Many worship services have become quite scripted (new and old alike)
- Is that wrong?
- “When we spend less than 2% of our week at church...”
- “It should be two hours of the total *other*.”
- What does that mean... why do they think that?

inverted

- Interesting discussion about the pastor
- Anyone know any of the “hot” new pastors?
- Why is it that we celebrate the “extraordinary minister more than the ordinary ministry of the gospel.”
- I like the description of the pastor as a ‘shepherd’
- What about you?

inverted

- The description:
- “A shepherd-pastor’s chief concern is his flock.”
- I love that
- What about an “entrepreneur-pastor”
- “...one who is mighty in the Scriptures, apt to teach, competent to confute opponents, and able to penetrate to the unity of the whole counsel of God.”
- Great comparison to the Corinthian church

inverted

- “counter-culture”
- Interesting... what does that mean to you?
- How does the church do that?
- Anyone recognize Francis Chan...
- He was the one I showed over a year ago walking on the balance beam.
- Are we simply following?
- Or are we seeking God’s will?



inverted

- “We forget that worldly success seldom mirrors godly success....
- “...often they are opposed.”
- What do you think about the question about viewing ourselves as less of an institution and more of a family?
- Read the last two paragraphs.
- Be the Church – be the Family of God

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What's coming...

- Language of Culture
- 1. Sawmill – seeing Veneer
- 2. Celebrity Me – 15 minutes of fame
- 3. Queen is Dead – consumption
- 4. Vanishing – wrestling with progress
- 5. Inverted World – understanding society
- Interlude.... Preparing for the Language of God
- 6,7,8 are all about the Language of God



NEXT WEEK...

INTERLUDE & CH. 6