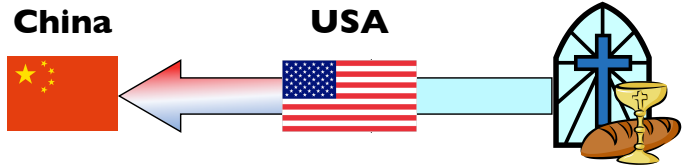


Is American Christianity more American than Christian?



The Christianity that was introduced to China first passed through Western culture.



The response to Christianity may be more a response to Western values.

“The Bible tells us that God made man in His image. Ever since the creation man has been trying to return the favor.”

“The idea of god was nothing more than a symbolic representation of the collective values of the society that worships (itself through) him, she, or it.”

Emile Durkheim

1858-1917



“Sacred cows

are questionable values that are so deeply embedded in our lives and culture that they are assumed and seldom challenged.”



One of the reasons
Christianity is so offensive
to our modern narcissistic culture
is that it calls for submission to authority



**outside our
control.**

"I don't mind
submitting to the rules
so long as I have a right
to vote on them!"

Competition between Christian ministries
(38,000 denominations)



Democracy - We demand a
vote and the right to pick
up OUR Bible and leave!

Individualism - It's all
about ME and God
(so long as He agrees
with me).

Nationalism - Jesus has
become a chaplain for
the American dream.

China



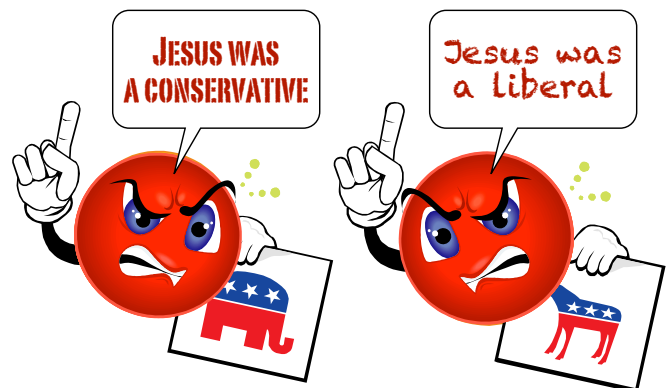
state imposed
proscriptions against
criticism of the
system

USA



self imposed
proscriptions against
criticism of the
system

Both liberals and conservatives
see Jesus as the mascot to their system



Jonah

1:3

Jonah's bad trip began
on his spiritual
4th of July.



Genesis 3:4-6

**The original sin was a declaration of independence
from God's Word.**

Genesis 11:4

**The Tower of Babel is a social statement of
independence.**

1 Samuel 8:5

**Israel's demand for a king was a statement of
independence from God and dependence on cultural
norms.**

Luke 15:11-13

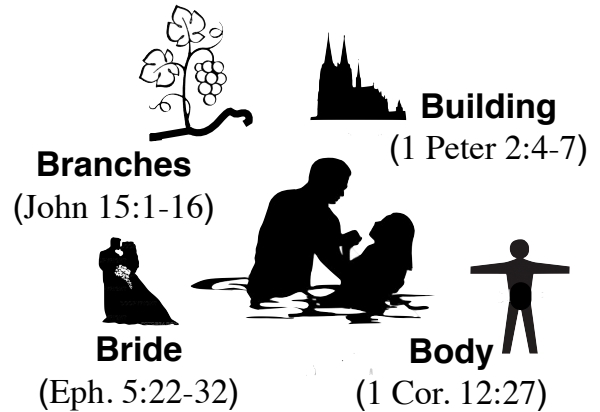
**The Prodigal son's big mistake
was declared his independence.**

Conformity to the world starts in the mind.

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² **And do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Biblical pictures of God's Kingdom



The Point:

**Our declaration
of spiritual independence
is the first step to spiritual
deconstruction .**

**Our culture sets us up to follow
Jonah, Eve, Israel, the Prodigal Son,
and all others who Satan convinces
to place their hope in anything
and everything but Christ.**

How to deal with spiritual “sacred cows”

1. **Be aware** - sacred cows are hard to see and kill.
2. **Be discerning** - independence has its place and limits.
3. **Resist the culture** - Fill your mind and attitude with Kingdom images.
4. **Be on guard** - Expect to have your commitment tested.
5. **Be connected** - Develop close spiritual ties with others who are committed to a renewed mind.