

## CHAPTER 09 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: “SOJOURNERS & EXILES”

*Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything*, by Jeremy Treat

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1. The author states, “I am not convinced that Christianity is in decline in the West. *Cultural* Christianity is in decline in the West. And that’s a good thing. Cultural Christianity is when people identify as Christians by name (nominally) yet faith in Christ has no real effect in their lives” (p. 157).
  - Do you agree that it’s a good thing that Cultural Christianity is declining? Why or why not?
  - What do you make of the author’s definition of Cultural Christianity? Would you add anything to it?
2. On page p. 158, the author says, “...in general American Christianity has confused the kingdom of God with the American Dream, exchanged biblical doctrine with pop psychology, and replaced devotion to Jesus with vague morality.... ‘Christian America’ was often a form of Christianity that ultimately existed to support me in my pursuit of individual happiness.”
  - Do you see the same thing that the author is seeing, that in general American Christianity has confused the kingdom of God with the American Dream? If so, what examples come to mind?
3. On page 159, the author makes a bold statement: “We are exiles, and we face a moment in history when it is vital for God’s people to understand their context and their role within it. The goal of the church is not to make a Christian nation but to make disciples of all nations”
  - Do you agree with his assertion that “the goal of the church is not to make a Christian nation but to make disciples of all nations”? Why or why not?
  - In your experience, do you find that Christians are nostalgic for ‘the good ol’ days’ in America? If so, what do you think they mean by that?
4. In his section on “Dual Citizens,” the author says that Christians are tempted in two ways: (1) separation, and (2) assimilation. Reflecting on his writing, do you think you are tempted to withdraw and separate from the culture, or are you more tempted to assimilate with the culture? Explain.
5. What is your biggest takeaway from this discussion? What is the one thing you want to remember going forward?