A Changing Light in a Darkened World?

Previously…

- The world around us is changing drastically, drowning out our voice
- We naturally want to offset this by changing how we reach the lost
- We need to avoid inertia at all costs
  - "The tendency to do nothing or remain unchanged"
- Three points
  - We must avoid "conforming to the world" – Romans 12:2
  - Christ has not and will not change – Hebrews 13:5-9
  - The needs of those in our environment have not changed!

How do we resolve this tension??

A Changing Light in a Darkened World?

Understand and Protect Our Identity

- An organization's identity is defined as the stable set of
  - Core values – the foundation upon which we conduct ourselves
  - Beliefs – our convictions based upon evidence or experience
  - Behaviors – what we do as a result

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Understand and Protect Our Identity

- Yoder v. Wisconsin (U.S. Supreme Court - 1972)
  - In a comprehensive examination of the Amish, the court found their religious beliefs and way of life to be "inseparable and interdependent" and to not have been "altered in fundamentals for centuries."

"The traditional way of life of the Amish is not merely a matter of personal preference, but one of deep religious conviction, shared by an organized group, and intimately related to daily living."

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Understand and Protect Our Identity

- Why is this important?
  - An organization's identity defines who they are and how they will behave.
  - Organizations that forget their identity have major problems

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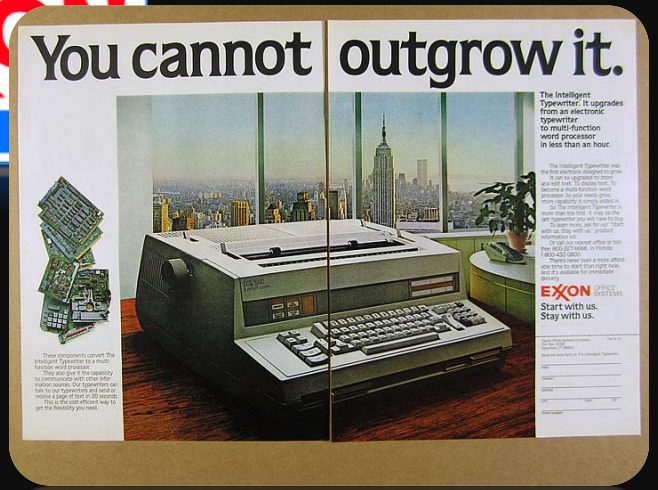

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Understand and Protect Our Identity

Smoky Hill church of Christ

???

- What about us?
  - The Church is in the business of saving souls – Matt. 28:18-20
  - The Church is in the business of growing – Ephesians 4:11-16

The Church is not in any other business!

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Understand the Role of Individuals

- An organization's success (or failure) is directly correlated to the success or failure of each individual
  - Any organization is the sum of its parts
  - As the collective of individuals change, so changes the organization
  - I Cor. 12:14 "The body is not one member, but many."
  - I Cor. 12:27 "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.
  - Eph. 4:15-17 "…from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

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Understand the Role of Individuals

- What does this mean?
  - Each must ensure that they are not “conformed to this world.” – Romans 12:2
  - Each must understand the core values and beliefs that we have, and must demonstrate behavior accordingly
  - To be successful as a body, we all must
    - Work as individual parts, strengthening the joints
    - Seek opportunities to serve God in this community, both individually and as the body
    - Participate – leave your comfort zone
    - Study and pray for the success of this body