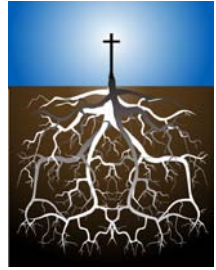


February, 2014

Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

As Chinese people, we are deeply rooted into far-reaching aspects of culture that touch as every dimension of life, whether it is religious or non-religious in nature. Similarly as Americans we are also deeply rooted into far-reaching aspects of culture that touch as every dimension of life, whether it is religious or non-religious in nature.



Many times, we practice these aspects of culture even though they explicitly go against the teachings and principles of the Bible. There are others who assimilate them into the Christian faith and pass it on as part Christian faith itself.

What does the Bible have to say about this? The book of Colossians helps us.

### **1 Live our life in Christ (not culture)**

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness (Col. 2:6-7)."*

### **2 Do not be taken captive (by culture)**

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ (Col. 2:8)."*

### **3 Christ is real (not culture)**

*"These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ (Col. 2:17)."*

### **4 We die with Christ (to culture)**

*"Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules (Col. 2:20)."*

*May we as Christians evaluate our celebrations and activities so that we do not diminish our faith in Christ!*

God Bless

Pastor and Helen Moy

2014年二月

親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹，

作為中國人，我們都根深蒂固於我們的中國文化；它影響著我們生活的每一個層面，無論是在宗教或非宗教等方面。同樣，作為美國人，美國文化對我們也產生同樣的深遠影響。



很多時候，我們在實踐著這些文化，即使它明確地違背了聖經的教導和原則。有些人更把這些文化容入基督教信仰中並把它當作為基督教信仰一部分相傳下去。

那麼聖經對這種做法有何見解？歌羅西書可以幫助我們。

### 1我們是活在基督裡（不是文化）

*“你們既然接受了基督耶穌，就當遵祂而行，在祂裡面生根建造，信心堅固，正如你們所領的教訓（歌羅西書2:6-7）。”*

### 2不要被它俘擄（被文化俘擄）

*“你們要謹慎，恐怕有人用他的理學，和虛空的妄言，不照着基督，乃照人間的遺傳，和世上的小學，就把你們擄去（歌羅西書2:8）。”*

### 3基督是真實的（不是文化）

*“這些原是後事的影兒；那形體卻是基督（歌羅西書2:17）。”*

### 4 我們與基督同死（不服從文化）

*“你們若是與基督同死，脫離了世上的小學，為什麼仍像在世俗中活着服從那不可拿，不可嘗，不可摸”等類的規條呢？（歌羅西書2:20）。”*

願我們作為基督徒，要小心評估我們各種的慶典和活動，這樣我們就不會削減我們在基督裡的信心！

願主祝福你們

梅牧師及師母