

Taking the Gospel into a New World: Cultural, Intellectual, and Religious Shifts

By Bob Young

We live in a secular world; secularism is the umbrella of the external forces

- Worldliness
- Non-religion is accepted as 'normal'
- Religion has been pushed to the periphery

External secular forces adversely affect the commitment of those who are Christians

- Changed lifestyles
- Changed expectations
- Changed roles for religion

Civic religion as a factor in the US society

- Civic religion has always been a factor in religious understandings of US culture
- Problem: today US society is intensely secular but considers itself religious
- Problem: the institutionalization of religion coupled with the individualization of faith
- Problem: the privatization of religion with faith concerns generalized in the public arena
- Problem: the relationship between church and state

The solution is biblical and religious, not secular. We must deal with the problem biblically rather than through the philosophical-scientific bases generally used in today's world

- Establishing truth, the existence of objective truth outside human experience or thought (outside philosophical reasoning)
- Establishing moral authority
- Establishing the biblical nature of the church, including biblical expectations of discipleship