

# I.O.U You - Owe Me

Last week we looked at the area of culture within the confounds of the body of Christ.

The first obstacle to building width and depth in any church is cultural indifference

**Galatians 3:28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

## The Conclusion

Culture will not divide us. instead it will ignite and enhance us. But culture does not mean we can sit in church and worship together though this maybe a start it's by no means the end.

**McDonalds** if you walk into any McDonalds around the world they are always the same, the same colours, menus, same uniforms only small cultural difference's can be found in Asia you can have rice with your meal.

When God visits a church his heart and vision of what the local house should be must always be found, give or take slight variant's in expression.

3 Dymentions to be found in church: Spirit, Soul and Body each of these areas is important and must be addressed in our daily lives and walk together.

## Hongi:

illustration, get somebody to stand with me, then get the rest of the congregation to join in.

A Hongi is a traditional Maori greeting in New Zealand. It is done by pressing one's nose to another person at an encounter.

It is used at traditional meetings among Maori people and on major ceremonies and serves a similar purpose to a formal handshake in modern western culture, and indeed a hongi is often used in conjunction with one.

In the hongi the ha or breath of life is exchanged and intermingled.

***Through the exchange of this physical greeting, you are no longer considered manuhiri (visitor) but rather tangata whenua, one of the people of the land. For the remainder of your stay you are obliged to share in all the duties and responsibilities of the home people. In earlier times, this may have meant bearing arms in times of war, or tending crops, such as kumara (sweet potato).***

When Maori greet one another by pressing noses, the tradition of sharing the breath of life is considered to have come directly from the gods.

Separation can be found and experienced in a variety of ways not just through a colour or ethnic intolerance.

**What about:**

**AGE:** Young to Old / Old to Young

**Social Upbringing:** Class – looking down the nose or Chip on the shoulder approach

**History:** It can't be me, choose somebody else (Moses) They are better FALSE HUMILITY  
Pressed or pushed down for so long you believe what has been said. No one ever spoke tenderly to the tree, when you feel no one was there to pick you up.

*You may never do what we do, but you can be what we are and greater*

**The Mafia:** Strangles the life out of any opportunity for someone to break into your area intimidation.

**We need generosity of knowledge, skills, experience and life – who tells you if you are getting it right or wrong, making yourself look a nut. Learn from the school of hard knocks! WHY?**

We have a corporate responsibility to not only grow but to help each other grow and in turn grow the work.

*You owe it to yourself to grow, to develop, to mature and be the best you can be, Spirit, soul and body. If I am hindered in my development through bad choices, or never being exposed to the knowledge of what can change and empower me in turn will frustrate and hinder you.*

**Up The story of Carl and Ellie and the Spirit of Adventure**

Brief intro

Carl Fredrickson's whole life, shown flashing by from early childhood to old age. He is a man defined by his love for his wife (Ellie), and by their combined thirst for adventure – adventure in the classic swashbuckling style – but the joys and tragedies of everyday life postpone all of their grand plans until Carl is a tired old widower. He never gave his wife what he thought she wanted, his house is surrounded by skyscrapers, and civil busybodies are trying to ship him off to a retirement home.

With nothing left to lose, he launches his house on a last bid to fulfill his promise to his wife Ellie; to go on their big adventure to South America. With her pictures on the wall and her adventure journal in hand, he discovers a small snag. Russell, the eight-year-old urban boy scout, has accidentally stowed away on the porch.

When the house lands in South America, Carl is torn between his desire to reach his adventurous final destination and his mundane duty to keep an eye on Russell. They come across a rare bird that they call Kevin, and they make a promise to keep Kevin safe from his childhood hero, the elderly but still bold and intrepid dirigible pilot Charles Muntz.

Video footage of choice:

When it's too late we often want to turn the clocks back. At times we face consequences' for actions other times by no skill on our part the chance is still there.

**I thank God that he is the God of a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.**

This is our year of acceleration a time to get back up to speed, The time for a new adventure

**Joel 2:5** *"Then I will make up to you for the years*

**Are we willing to get rid of or move aside the things that will stop us from taking off again.**

**Heb 12: 1-2** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Everything that Hinders:** Stop being a victim decide today the adventure starts with me

**Sin that entangles:** *Read Romans 6*

***If we don't control sin, it becomes our master not God. When I don't have control of it I hurt me, I hurt you and I hurt the Father. Life will never be produced it will only lead to death.***

**Anything can be achieved if we stand together**

Illustration: Place a ladder at the front of church, get someone to climb it

Call others to join us in the task, leave your seat, take responsibility for the outcome

**Success is not a solo project**

We have experienced the breath of God now we are part of a tribe our duty is not to ourselves but to those we share life with. Guess what when I am concerned about seeing you go from strength to strength, I to will go from Strength to Strength.

Phil Clark