



The
Excellence
Centre

CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM

DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

It is an understatement to remind each other that at times we lead very busy lives. We know that if we can come by a word that speaks to our hearts, it will be good for our souls, even amid the sometimes hectic pace of school life.

We hope that this series of Care Conversations can speak to all of us, because we are leaning on one of the most read Christian pastoral writers – A.W. Tozer. The comments in this series from Stephen are based on *Culture: Living as Citizens of Heaven on Earth. Collected insights from A.W. Tozer* (Moody Publishers, 2016).

May you be refreshed as you faithfully go about your good work this week.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 6:

CULTURE:

LIVING AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

REFLECTION BY
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 5:

On Being Accurate, Graciously

As someone interested in what we call Biblical anthropology (what does the Bible teach us about who we are as people), I am interested in what words are used to convey who we are. This can even occur in translations – for example, the NIV translation of Philippians 2:5 says “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

The word “attitude” seems innocuous enough. However, for many of our teachers, this word relates to personality theory. Much personality theory revolves around two concepts: nature (our genetic inheritance) and nurture (our social upbringing). Both are important, but they do not define our personhood – that is a matter of whether we are in Christ, or not. Reflecting on our relationship with Christ is a deeply spiritual matter. For many people, reflecting

on their attitude seems to be something other than spiritual.

Thus A.W. Tozer observed that *With the coming of the various revolutions – fixed meanings have deserted religious words and now float about like disembodied spirits, looking for but apparently never finding the bodies from which they have been exorcised...* (p.92)

The ‘mind of Christ’ is more than personality applied to attitude – as expressed here, it is about our relationship with Him: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5, NKJ).

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Tyson PhD
Principal Consultant
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