

# Integration Now!

Merging  
the Secular  
and the Sacred  
into One Whole

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Mark W. Weaver

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*“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.”*

(Psalm 24:1 NASB)

**S**ECULARISM is a false idea. Everything belongs to God. Life is not compartmentalized into stuff that God cares about, and stuff He does not care about. The universe, though complex and multi-faceted, is wholly and fully His.

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If you were born prior to 1960, you no doubt remember the Civil Rights movement. Black Americans, long oppressed and relegated to second-class citizenship, reached a point where they were no longer willing suffer the abuse of racism. All across the South, a dynamic took hold, and blacks joined forces, along with some whites, to claim the full rights of being an American.

One word heard frequently during that era was integration. Society had been segregated based upon skin color. In restaurants, whites occupied one area, and blacks another. On bus trips, blacks had to sit in the rear. But the area where the divide was most offensive was the realm of education.

White students attended one school, blacks another. The quality of education, and the resources devoted to schools, weighed heavily in favor of the whites.

“Integration Now” became the by-word of the movement. Blacks wanted fair treatment. They wanted to be afforded the same opportunities as whites when it came to jobs, home ownership, and higher education. They wanted to become fully integrated into the mainstream of life in America.

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“Integration Now!” needs to become the by-word of the Church. Not in racial terms per sé, though this is certainly essential, but even more so in de-compartmentalizing our lives in realms of secular and sacred.

Kingdom, church, and culture all belong to God. He sees them as an integrated whole. Yes, they are different. But they all belong to Him.

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As His children, we must seek His kingdom first. (Matthew 6:33) His rule, reign, and government—His glory—must become our individual priority.

As His Church, we must seek His kingdom as well. We must see our collective selves, our Christian communities, as but subsets of His kingdom. We must desire for the arena of Church to come fully under the sway and influence of His kingdom rule.

Furthermore, as residents of earth, as individuals and families co-existing in society alongside the unredeemed, we must see not only lost souls to be saved, we must also see that culture itself is meant for His glory and His kingdom rule.