

'Culture'

From the series: Conversations... on life, God, and other small topics – 11/11/12

BIG IDEA

Culture is determined by how people think and what people value – essentially culture is reflection of what matters most to people. In order to best understand culture, namely the people around us, we must listen to the questions that people are asking as questions reflect what's on people's minds and hearts. As Christians, we must have a Biblical answer as to how God wants us to live in the culture that we do. The amazing reality that Scripture teaches is that God desires to use those who have been transformed by the gospel to transform the culture around for the gospel.

QUESTIONS

Engaging the Head::

- How well do you know the culture around you? How would you articulate what is most significant to the people (culture) around you? What questions are people asking and what do people's questions reveal about what matters most to them?

"The better we understand a culture, the better prepared we will be to reach that culture so that God can transform how people think, what they value, and how they experience life." [Mark Driscoll ~ the Radical Reformation](#)

- Some approach how they live in culture much like a 'bomb shelter' – meaning, they isolate themselves from the people around them as to not be contaminated. Some approach living in culture much like a 'copy-cat' – meaning, they seek to immerse themselves in culture in hopes to just fit in and be accepted by those around them. Neither one of these approaches is biblical, rather, the Bible calls us to '[incarnate](#)' ourselves in culture. How might you 'incarnate' yourself in culture as to best reach and influence those around you with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Engaging the Heart::

Romans 12:2 – "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think..."

- Only Jesus can transform us – meaning, its Jesus who gives us a new heart, a new mind, a new way, a new destiny, new affections, new priorities, new pursuits, new passions. Jesus gives us different standards, different goals, different motivations, a different perspective on life, money, work, relationships – so how is Jesus transforming you? Where are some areas in your life where you are hungry for further transformation?

"Transformed lives of people in the church are both the greatest argument for, and the greatest explanation of, the gospel." [Mark Driscoll ~ the Radical Reformation](#)

Engaging the Hands::

- Jesus makes clear that we are to be '[Salt](#)' & '[Light](#)' in the culture we live in. How might you begin to be salt – namely, purple salt? How might you begin to get 'rubbed' into the lives of those around you? Similar to how we strategically place lamps around our homes, God has strategically placed you where He wants you to shine in the darkness. What are some practical ways in which you can begin to bring the '[light of the world](#)' to the darkness around you?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **This Sunday** – GENESIS will continue the 'Conversation' this Sunday by looking at – **Suffering**.
- **the City** – join GENESIS on the City! The City is a NEW way for GENESIS to communicate and connect people with others within the community. Request an invitation to join the City by going to genesischurch.onthecity.org
- '**workers**' – sign-up today to be a 'worker' at GENESIS. Learn more about SERVING with GENESIS by visiting the GENESIS website – <http://www.genesisjourney.com/blog/post/do-you-see-what-i-see>