

# How Can the Church IMPACT Today's Culture?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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United Community Church

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The church has basically three choices in response to today's culture: (1) Isolate from culture, (2) Conform to culture – church acts like the world, (3) Impact the culture by sharing Christ's love

## Contrast between Biblical and Social (Worldly) Moral Standards

### 1. Conviction & Conversion versus Conformity

#### *Conviction & Conversion*

- Conviction – Christ died for our sin. When we are convicted of our sin, we must confess our sin and turn to Christ
- Conversion - Christ becomes Lord of our lives meaning we are subject to His Word, His Will, and His Work

#### *Conformity*

- The world defines character and moral values completely different from the Bible and expects everyone to conform to those beliefs
- If you stand in opposition to the world's constantly changing belief system, you are wrong because they are right

### 2. Transformation versus Indoctrination

#### *Transformation*

- You turn from sin to follow Christ
- Your desire changes from gratifying yourself to glorifying God

#### *Indoctrination*

- The world indoctrinates us at an early age regarding how they define right and wrong
- If this indoctrination is not checked, children become adults who practice the world's moral standards

### 3. Follow God's objective moral standards versus follow world's subjective/changing moral standards

#### *Follow God's objective standards:*

- Our identity – we are created in the image of God and redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ
- Human life – all human life is sacred and must be valued from conception forward
- Marriage – God defines marriage as a sacred union between husband and wife, male and female

#### *Follow changing morals:*

- Our identity – we are free to choose who we want to be because it is our right as human beings
- Human life – the woman has the right to determine what is best for her body because life does not begin until birth
- Marriage – we have the right to determine how we will define the marriage relationship

How the Church (the Body of Christ) Can Impact Culture

1. Demonstrate the love of Christ to the world
2. Demonstrate how following Christ is better than following the world
3. Be an example of Christlikeness to the world

