



#### A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO

# cultural engagement



#### A Christian Guide to Cultural Engagement Week 2: Reconciliation and the Christian Identity

Review:

**Philippians 3:20–21** <sup>20</sup> but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.

**Revelation 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> When He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slaughtered, and You redeemed people for God by Your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup> You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

<u>**Revelation 7:9-10**</u><sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were robed in white with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

**<u>2 Corinthians 5:17-21</u>** <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. <sup>18</sup> Everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.</u> <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." <sup>21</sup> He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Ephesians 6:10-12**<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. <sup>12</sup> For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

#### Questions:

- How does seeing your role as an Ambassador impact how you see those around you?
- o What are the biggest challenges you personally experience in interacting with others in culture today?
- What are you asking God to do in and through your life in our current culture?
- How can engaging with culture pose dangers to a Christian?
- How can NOT engaging with culture pose dangers to a Christian?

### Previously on





### Father Kallistos Ware



### "Eucharist"





# Christ is the perfect IMAGO DEI

### "Servant-Leader" Genesis 2:15 ... to WORK and KEEP...



New Way of Life: **1. New Mission...the Great** Commission 2. New Command...Great Commandment



#### **The Journey Ahead**

 Look at the centrality of the Gospel in our new life and new mission...

- Look at the reality of our dual Citizenship
- Zoom in on our identity as Christians as God's **Ambassadors on earth**
- Look at the problem of losing focus on our mission Set the table for next week's Approaches to Cultural **Engagement and Rules for effective engagement**"

#### **THE SIN ISSUE** GENESIS 3+



### "THE FALL"





### **Future Shock** (1970) "Kleenex Relationships"



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STRONG IN THE LORD A NEW CREATION MER ш  $\leq \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}$ ശ

#### UNDER GRACE ACCEPTED GOD'S TEMPLE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST **FREE FROM CONDEMNATION CITIZEN OF HEAVEN** Q BORN AGAIN

Coming to Him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen and valuable to God—you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

### but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Philippians 3:20**





#### **Revelation 5:8-10**

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### The Kingdom of God is Diverse! I. Every Tribe 2. Every Tongue 3. Trans-national 4. Singular in Worship



#### 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

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Reconciliation is the element of salvation that results from atonement. Reconciliation is the end of the estrangement, caused by original sin, between God and humanity. It is the peace between humanity and God that results from the removal of our sin and the satisfaction of God's justice.

### **A DEFINITION**

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### **Kingdom Ambassadors** I. New Allegiance 2. New Goal 3. New Power (Acts 1:8) 4. New Language



### Weare inviting people into a sacred space...



### From creation to Creator From religion to relationship From an unknown God to the known LORD







### The story of the Bible



CREATION





### Henry Kissinger





#### **Kingdom Ambassadors**

- I. Represent the Homeland
- 2. Faithful to Values of Homeland
- 3. Live in 2 worlds
- 4. Speak both languages
- 5. Know both cultures
- 6. Promote Peace
- 7. Seek to bring favor on homeland



# - LOSING FOCUS







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