

Con.text
Looking in the Mirror
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Culture, as defined by Merriam-Webster: The set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterizes an institution or organization.

Con.text has spent a lot of time helping us understand culture, tonight we are going to explore how the unchurched view us.

It is important for us to separate the difference between culture and Gospel.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-30 – NIV):

16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

David Kinnaman’s book *Unchristian*, finds that the unchurched think the church is:

- ≡ Judgmental
- ≡ Hypocritical
- ≡ Not concerned with “us” if we don’t accept Jesus
- ≡ Anti-homosexual
- ≡ Sheltered
- ≡ Too involved in politics

Why is it important for the Church to understand our culture?

- ≡ As of 2015, the population of Fresno County was 974,861.
- ≡ Church rate of about 28 % for Fresno County.
- ≡ That means 701,900 people in Fresno County don't know Jesus.

Churches are often set up so that new people must:

- ≡ Belong
- ≡ Behave
- ≡ Believe

What can we do?

- ≡ PRAY
- ≡ Support what we have in common, we are already known by what we are against.
- ≡ Listen to their heart.
- ≡ Be active in the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ≡ See people how God sees people.