

# Changing World Series: **Culture**

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 02/28/2021



## I. **Around the World**

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**Key Truth:** Culture is the Context, Not the Enemy

## II. **Culture Shock**

Daniel 1:3-6

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Point: Resist Corruption

## III. **Cross-Cultural Ambassador**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:19-23

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Point: Endeavor to Influence

## IV. **Counter-Culture Courage**

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## V. **Challenge & Invitation**

**Mid-Week Devotion** (*Take time this week to pray & respond to the following*)

“Culture” describes the diverse range of customs, values, beliefs, forms of expression, and institutions that comprise society. Culture is the context in which we have been placed by God to live, learn, grow, and serve.

Living amid a culture that is rapidly shifting away from Biblical standards and norms is a challenging thing. The pressure to conform and the temptation to isolate are ever-present struggles. If we are not careful, the culture in which we live can increasingly feel more like an enemy rather than what it actually is—the context in which we participate in society.

As followers of Christ, we are not at war with the culture. The Lord expects us to be engaged influencers to the world around us. Christians are ambassadors within the culture who are called to proclaim the Gospel and model the love, grace, and mercy of God. Being a believer involves participation in the ongoing struggle to simultaneously resist being corrupted by cultural decline while still being engaged enough to influence it for the better.

Do you feel pressure to conform to the culture or isolate far from it? How are these or other cultural pressures affecting your relationship with God and with others? Do you have a desire to be an influencer in culture? Are you equipped to do so?

Prayerfully ask God to reveal your present interaction with the culture in which you live. Consider whether you are an influencer or if you are being overly influenced. Express to God your desire to be an influencer who does not drift with cultural decline. Affirm God’s ability to work through you and commit to be His ambassador wherever He leads.