

## “Alternative Culture”: Telling Another Story of Transformation | Wk 2

1/10/2021 | A Seattle Church: @ASeattleChurch

“Creative Minorities” by [Tyler Gorsline](#)

### SERMON NOTES/RECAP:

Tyler shared 5 stories of struggling with living life “only as we see it” via:

- Apathetic Carelessness
- Dismissive Impotence
- Graceless Cancelling
- Wearied Coping
- Successful Isolation
  - Each felt hopeless and without vision, and thus perishing/leading others to perish as **Proverbs 29:18** describes.
  - That each was a “life of settling that leads to a loss of perspective”
  - We lose sight of having “hope, that is faith in what is unseen” (Hebrews 11:1)
  - We lose our “Christian Imagination” (Black Theologian Willie James Jennings)

He challenged us to consider:

- Jesus often ceases to be “our vision” and becomes second to what’s right in front of us
- This individualism confuses others who thought we had a bigger vision for the future
- Contrarily, early church was a movement “that joined God’s transformation of all things.”
- Instead of:
  - “Apathetic Carelessness” (Story 1), **they became Phillip & the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)**
  - “Dismissive Impotence” (Story 2), **they become like Joseph with his brothers (Genesis 45:3-4)**
  - “Graceless Cancelling” (Story 3), **they become like Saul (AKA Paul) of Tarsus who was embraced after his murderous plots (Acts 9)**
  - “Wearied Coping” (Story 4), Jesus looked at us and says **“I will give you rest” (Matt 11) & “go back to hometown and tell them what you have seen” (John 4)**
  - “Successfully Isolated” (Story 5), Jesus looked upon Zaccheus and said “come down from that tree, I am coming to your house to be with you” (Luke 19:1-10)
- “What happened to you? To your Christian Imagination? To your hope?”
- Without Confession, We Can’t Turn to Repentance

That, We are called to be “Creative Minorities” (British Historian Arnold J. Toynbee)

- We are called to be “resident aliens” whose home is “the Kingdom of God”
- Liberated by embracing that Christians are called to be weird (“holy”: set apart)
- **1 Peter 2: 9: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, a people for God’s own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

**A Creative Minority (CM)** "is a group of people who through the law of challenge and response...respond to some set of challenges of extreme difficulty...and devised solutions that reoriented their entire society"

- 1 Peter 2:10: Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- CMs see things that aren't yet manifest
- CMs seek not to get what world has, but to offer entirely different
- CMs are a Christian community in a web of stubbornly loyal relationships...seeking not merely to keep the sacred flame burning but also to transform the larger society of which you are a part. This is a demanding and risk-laden choice." -Augsburger "

**Thus, at ASC or Vision is different, its:**

- To be "A Movement of People Joining God's Transformation of All Things" (Rev 21:1-5)

**Because:**

- The Whole Story of the Bible & Our World: God With Us
- God is Transforming All Things with us
- We and all things will be made new when Jesus returns.
- God loves you and he will be with you always
- Christ is with you even when you can't feel it
- Christ left a group of people to carry on his vision

**Until Then:**

- We will carry on his mission
- We will let him in: Revelation 3:20: God has been standing at the door and knocking
- We will be "People over Program", like Jesus is
- "Our young men and women will have dreams and visions" -Acts 2:17 (quoting Joel 2)
- "Our gospel will remain unhindered" -like Paul's in Acts 28

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

### WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. Have you ever recorded a sports game, heard the score and watched it anyway? How did it change how you watched the game?
2. If you could be excellent at a musical instrument what would it be?

### WORD: “Truth”

*Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.*

**Read Revelation 21:1-5** out loud twice (as a group) and answer questions

- What about the passage invites you into hope?
- What about the passage excites you?
- Which of the themes most resonates with you? - New heavens & new earth (v.1), New Jerusalem descending (v.2), declaration that God will dwell with humanity (v.3), no more death, mourning, pain (v.4), Making all things new (v.5)

### APPLICATION: “Life”:

1. How does the vision Pastor Tyler shared and is expressed in the Revelation passage formative for your life? Do you see the things in your life pointing toward that or see your life as a part of moving toward that fulfillment?
2. How does the hope of the end vision help you live now?

### PRAYER “Way”

1. Spend some time thanking God for what he promises to do at the end of this age.
2. Ask God to help live in light of the vision of being a Christian.
3. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

### COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
  - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. Celebration!. Due to the generosity of friends outside of our church, and your donations of one-time, recurring, appreciated stock, business matching, and recurring gifts, we were able to raise \$120k of year-end giving..
2. **Invite a friend and join us online:** Alternative Culture Wk 3, Next Sunday
3. **All-Church Prayer Calls :** 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
  - a. Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week.
  - b. Additional Friday morning prayer call starts January 22nd at 6:30am-7am
4. **Awesome:** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations we receive to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our city & world!
5. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? **HERE**
6. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**
7. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**