

Anti-Christian Culture

Opening Announcements

Re-opening Plans (update)

Opening Prayer

Q: WHAT IS culture?

Q: What are some of the things that characterize "our" culture?

Q: How has culture changed in your life?

Q: What are some of the challenges facing our culture today?

Q: What IS "anti-christian" culture? Is this a "new" thing?

Q: What is a "Christian" culture? What makes it "Christian"?

How Should We Live In Whatever Culture we find ourselves In:

READ: Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Q: When Jesus said this, ultimately what is the GOAL of us being "witnesses"?

Q: Do you think that the goal of the Christian life is to change/transform culture? Why or why not?

Q: Can you think of examples where christians have tried to withdraw from culture for the sake of God and end up creating a sub-culture? Is this helpful or not?

READ: Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Q: In this teaching, what imagery does Jesus use? Why is this descriptive/instructive?

Q: According to verse 16, what's the purpose of "good works"?

Q: How does "good works" point people to "your Father in heaven?"

Q: Does being "salt" and "light" transform culture? Work against culture? Or enhance culture?

Biblical Examples That Address Culture:

The Biblical Feasts:

- 1.) Passover
- 2.) Unleavened Bread
- 3.) First Fruits
- 4.) Feast of Weeks/Pentecost
- 5.) Feast of Trumpets
- 6.) Day of Atonement
- 7.) Feast of Tabernacles or Booths

The Sabbath

Q: How do these required feasts create "culture"? Why would culture be important?

READ: Matthew 19:4-5 "Jesus answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

READ: John 17:21-22a "Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision.."

READ: Matthew 21: 4-5 "This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.' "

Q: Notice Jesus speaks about "the beginning", "Moses" and "the prophets". How did this give Israel their cultural identity?

Q: What are some ways WE can understand our culture and then seek to transform it?