

CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

**SECRET #2:
DETERMINE TO INFLUENCE
YOUR CULTURE**
SELECTED SCRIPTURES

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Introduction: Today we are going to discover the second secret Elijah illustrates for living an extraordinary life: influencing your culture. History shows that those who want to experience a significant life strive to influence the world, rather than isolate themselves from the world.

I. God's Mandate To Care For The Culture (Genesis 2:15)

A. Definition of Culture: Culture is what human beings make of this world.

Genesis 2:15 "Then LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it."

B. Your Place in the Culture (Ephesians 2:10)

Ephesians 2:10 "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

II. Cultivating Your Culture

III. Christians Who Fail To Influence Their Culture

A. Silo Saints

1. **A false dichotomy between the sacred and the secular**
2. **A false understanding of God's sovereignty**

Psalm 103:19 “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all.”

Matthew 6:9-10 ⁹ “...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

B. Spiritual Sellouts (2 Timothy 4:10)

1. **Their reluctance to recognize sin**
2. **Their adherence to political correctness**

2 Timothy 4:10 “Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;”

IV. Isolation Versus Influence (1 Corinthians 5:9-11; John 17:11, 14-17)

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 ⁹ “I wrote you in my [earlier] letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a person.”

John 17:11, 14-17 (NLT) ¹¹ “Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. ¹⁴ And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.”

Conclusion