

Changing the Way You Think

The Authority of Scripture (Part 4): *The Counterfeit of Culture*

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- The preface to our theme is choosing not to let culture shape and form your thinking and worldview... **Cultural Conformity** is the Default:

- Media
- Education
- Government
- Relationships
- Wealth
- Beauty
- Celebrity

All of These Forces Are At Work to Construct and Shape Your Worldview...Your Perspective About Everything!

- It IS What Will Happen Unless You Intentionally & Consistently Choose God As Your Guide

2 Cor. 6:14-18

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For **what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?** ¹⁵ **What harmony is there between Christ and Belial (Satan)? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?**¹⁶ **What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?** For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷Therefore, "**Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.** Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."¹⁸ And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Culture is Not Your Compass

Philippians 2:15-16

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, **shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life.**

- **Divided Loyalty**

James 4:4-10

...Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ **Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning?**

...Humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, **for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.** ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

“Once you have made the World an end, and faith a means, you have almost won your man, and it makes very little difference what kind of worldly end he is pursuing... Quietly and gradually nurse him on to the stage at which the religion becomes merely part of the “cause”...Provided that meets, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes, and crusades, matter more to him than prayers and sacraments and charity, he is ours--and the more 'religious' (on those terms) the more securely ours. I could show you a pretty cageful down here...”

Screwtape (Senior Demon)
C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

- All About Self

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ **For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.** These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

- **“Craving for Physical Pleasure”** (Fun, Comfort, Enjoyment, Fulfillment, “Happiness”...)
- **“Craving for Everything We See”** (Our Whole Society is Built on Consumerism)
- **“Pride in Our Achievements and Possessions”** (Our Identity and Worth Defined)

- Good & Evil Fade to Gray

Isaiah 5:20-21

What sorrow awaits for those **who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.** What sorrow awaits for those who are **wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.**

- It Can Sound So Right...So Enlightened...

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

2 Cor. 4:4; 11:14-15

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

James 1:27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress **and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**