

Changing the Way You Think

Church and Culture (Part 3)

Summaries of *Church Against Culture* and the *Church of Culture*

The Church In and For Culture

Philippians 2:15-16

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, because **you are living with crooked people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world. You offer the teaching that gives life.**

“Shine Like Stars in the Dark...”

- **Lead Intentionally Open & Transparent (Visible) Lives**

John 3:16-21

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ **This is the verdict:** Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ **But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.**

A Star, Candle, or Lamp **burns energy, expends resources, uses itself up...in the midst of the darkness.**

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

- *Intentionally Open and Transparent Means:*

- **You Purposefully and Continuously Intersect with Others and Their Lives**
 - ◇ You Seek Out Relationships (especially those who live in darkness)
 - ◇ Always Looking for Opportunities

** Knowing your personality type or sensitivities does not excuse you from being a light. You simply must prepare for it and execute differently.*

- **Your Life is Visible to Others**
 - ◇ Your Struggles and Failures are Stories of God’s Mercy & Redemption
 - ◇ Therefore, there is no judgment or condemnation in your heart towards others

“You Offer the Teaching that Gives Life...”

- **“Offer” -- NOT Police, Judge, Condemn, Debate, Avoid, or Ignore**

Romans 7:24-25; 8:1-2

What a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank You God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord...

So now **there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.** And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin...

- **Hospitable and Welcoming**

“Those who live out radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as theirs at all but as God’s gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that the gospel comes with a house key. They take biblical theology seriously...”

“Radically ordinary hospitality characterizes those who don’t fuss over different worldviews represented at the dinner table. The truly hospitable aren’t embarrassed to keep friendships with people who are different.”

“Let God use your home, apartment, dorm room, front yard, community gymnasium, or garden for the purpose of making strangers into neighbors and neighbors into family. Because that is the point—building the church and living like a family, the family of God.”

- Rosario Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*

- Your Home
- Your Work
- Your Life Group
- Your Partners in Kingdom Outreach Work

Offering and Exhibiting His Truth About:

Identity
Purpose
Success
Beauty
Love
Hope