



Gospel Culture: Translating our Faith for all of Life

Icebreaker: What culture would you want to experience if you didn't live in Colorado?

Read Together: Colossians 1:15-23

Discuss:

- What does the Scripture above say?
- What was the Holy Spirit saying to you during the message this week?
- What is the relationship of God's Word – revelation to our real life in the world?
- What is religion? Religio & Religare – to tie/bind

“The man who thinks without the proper first principles goes mad...” – G. K. Chesterton

“Justice is understood to be something strictly human, having nothing to do with obedience to any divine command or conformity to any pattern ‘laid up in heaven.’ Moral principles, like all other social conventions, are something ‘made on earth.’” – George Grant

“Human freedom requires that the principles of justice be the product of human agreement or consent, that is, they must be the result of a contract...and these principles must therefore be rooted in an understanding of the interests of human beings as individuals rather than in any sense of duty or obligation to anything above humanity” – George Grant

“The terms of the contract may well change as circumstances and interests change. But the restraints free individuals accept must always be ‘horizontal’ in character rather than ‘vertical.’” – George Grant

Discuss:

Take time to discuss the following information:

- **The Crisis of Culture**

Modern man is conferring on himself the contractual **right** to:

- Redefine his gender irrespective of creational chromosomes
- Murder (abortion)

- Polygamy, homosexuality, bestiality or any sexual predilection
- Suicide
- Euthanize children and the elderly or sick
- Homosexual ‘marriage’
- Prostitution and pornography
- Suppress worship of the living God and the free speech of Christians
- Blasphemy and worship idols

➤ **The Crisis of Culture**

Western moral principles are shifting like sand and the metamorphosis of the church’s relationship with the surrounding culture is happening before our eyes.

➤ **The Meaning of Culture**

Culture is best understood as *religion externalized*. *The public manifestation of the religious ground-motive (i.e. worship) of a people.*

“The religious ground-motive of a culture can never be ascertained from the ideas and the personal faith of the individual. It is truly a communal motive that governs the individual even when one is not consciously aware of it or acknowledges it.” – Herman Dooyeweerd

Read Together: Genesis 1:26, Romans 1:25, Psalm 2: 1-3, Psalm 2: 4-6, Psalm 2: 7-9, Psalm 2: 12

Discuss:

➤ **The Direction of Culture**

There is no such thing as a neutral culture; no institution and no cultural activity can ever be religiously neutral.

➤ **The Direction of Culture**

The *structure* of something concerns God’s creational laws/norms and ordained pattern that pertain to it. The *direction* of these spheres concerns the religious orientation that they have.

➤ **The Transformation of Culture**

Implicit in the Christian gospel is a particular vision of culture. The gospel is a culture because it is centered in the worship of the living God, through Jesus Christ.

➤ **The Transformation of Culture**

“If culture is the public expression of the worship of a people and the gospel restores man to true worship (i.e. of creator not creature), then the gospel restores man to true culture which is the kingdom of God.” – Dr. Joe Boot

➤ **The Transformation of Culture**

Great concern for transformation is found everywhere in Scripture.

Discuss:

➤ **The Transformation of Culture**

Christ's Lordship and kingship is total, absolute, objective reality irrespective of the desires and will of men.

➤ **The Transformation of Culture**

All things are being made subject to Christ, in heaven and earth and we are commanded to pray for his kingdom and will to be done on earth, as in heaven.

“It is only by believing in God that we can ever criticize the government. Abolish God and the government becomes the God. That fact is written across all human history...wherever the people do not believe in something beyond the world, they will worship the world. But above all they will worship the strongest thing in the world.” – G. K. Chesterton

➤ **The Transformation of Culture**

We will worship either the triune *Creator* or we will worship the *creature* by absolutizing an aspect of creation.

Pray:

Ask the Lord to expand your brain to take in all that Dr. Boot shared. Ask for eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Ask God to make you discerning of areas of compromise and how you can be a catalyst for change in our culture.

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