

**Adult Sunday School Purpose:
“To Engage Minds and Hearts
toward Worship, Community and
Mission”**

Persuasive people who love God and others.

What will people understand about God through us?

What will people understand about the human condition?

What will people understand about heaven and hell?

Adult Sunday School Goal:
***Knowledge, Understanding,
Wisdom***

Path to Understanding and Action

Knowledge: What is it we are talking about. What do the terms mean?

UNDERSTANDING OR REASONING: How do the terms fit with our other knowledge?

Wisdom: Living lives that please Christ and influence others for Him.

New Series Engaging the World: Apologetics and World-views

Source: Capital Hills Baptist Church

<http://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/we-equip/adults/core-seminars/apologetics-and-worldviews/>

How much are we engaging with the world around us, outside of church?

Do we believe we are equipped to engage others persuasively?

General concepts to help you as you study further.

New Series: Engaging the World: Apologetics and World-views

1. Christ and Culture: October 5th
2. Introduction to Worldviews: October 12, 19
3. God and Reality: October 26, November 9
4. Man and Morality: November 16, 23
5. Epistemology: November 30, December 14

2015

6. Politics and War: January 11, 18
7. Introduction to Christian Apologetics: January 25, February 8
8. Existence of God: February 15, 22
9. Problem of Evil: March 8, 15
10. The Reliability of Scripture: March 22, 29
11. Resurrection: April 12, 19
12. World Religions: April 26, May 10
13. Apologetic Conversations: May 17

Engaging the World: Christ and Culture

*What influence should Christians
attempt to have on the culture?*

The first class is today.

Key question to consider.

Christ and Culture: What is culture?

Discussion

What is God doing in the world

What is His overall purpose?

Discussion

Culture Definition

A society's `culture' is a set of shared practices, attitudes, values, and beliefs which are rooted in common understandings of `the big questions'--where life comes from, what life means, who we are, and what is important to spend our time doing in the years allotted to us. No one can live without some assumed answers to these questions, and every set of answers shapes culture:

- the way we treat the material world,
- the way we relate the individual to the group and family,
 - the way groups and classes relate to one another,
 - the way we handle sex, money, and power,
- the way we make decisions and set priorities, and the way we regard death, time, art, government, and physical space.

Tim Keller, http://theresurgence.com/files/pdf/tim_keller_2005_christians_and_culture.pdf

Suggested definition:

Similar to the idea of worldview, but culture talks more about the “visual” effects of a person’s actual worldview.

What should we, if anything, try to change in our culture?

Discussion

Culture: How to change?

Historically, Christians have adopted three classic approaches that are still in use today. We could call "the conversionist", "the political", and "the separatist" ways.

- The conversionist - On the one hand, many believe that the way to change a culture is to change enough individual hearts through personal conversion. Then, supposedly, the culture would change automatically.
- The political - At the other end of the spectrum there have been believers over the centuries who wanted to use political power to enact laws that were directly based on Christian theology.
- The separatist - A third approach rejects any idea of Christians trying to influence culture. It insists that we should reflect Christian values within our own churches, but we should not try to influence society in any particularly Christian direction.

Tim Keller, http://theresurgence.com/files/pdf/tim_keller_2005_christians_and_culture.pdf

Reactions to this?

Christ Transforming Culture: Cultivate and Create Culture

- Salt and Light. Matthew 5:13-16
- Actively participate in "creating" a culture that reflects the glory of God.
 - Work: our vocations
 - Work: our "ministries" in the church
- Christians and non-Christians have created works of culture that express true things about God.
- What are those true things we should look for, praising when we see them, and cultivating in our work?

A suggested way to think about this for us now.

Biblical Theses on Culture

God created the world good.

Gen. 1:31

God saw all that He had made, and
behold, it was very good. And there
was evening and there was
morning, the sixth day.

Create and Cultivate Culture: Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15

Create and Cultivate Culture: Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15. Cultural Mandate

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26–28)

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

No Human Culture is Exempt from the Effects of Sin. Gen. 6:5, 8:21

No Human Culture is Exempt from the Effects of Sin. Gen. 6:5, 8:21

Culture is an expression of human thoughts and desires.

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

²¹ The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. (Genesis 8:21)

Christians are responsible for how
we consume culture Phil. 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Christians must abstain from and
separate from some expressions of
culture 1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15–17)

Christians should critique and
engage intellectually some
expressions of culture:
Acts 17:22-28.
General Worldview Differences

22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ (Acts 17:22–28)

Christians understand that only the God in the gospel will make culture what He intends, and only finally in the last day.

Christians understand that only the God in the gospel will make culture what He intends, and only finally in the last day.

Realism. Realistic expectations

Christians must concern themselves with things that have eternal significance and not be infatuated by things of this world...even "good" things.

Christians must concern themselves with things that have eternal significance and not be infatuated by things of this world...even "good" things.

Ephesians 5:16: "Look carefully then how you walk, not use unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

Therefore:

Chiefly Evangelism/Discipleship: Priority of great commission over cultural mandate.