

Evangelism In Our Culture

What is culture? – the way of life for a society. Includes beliefs, institutions, code of manners, language, dress, etc.

What culture are we living in today? – Many have called it the Post-Truth Culture.

Post-Truth Culture Definition = When objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief – Oxford Languages.

The Prophet Isaiah depicts our culture today in **Isaiah 59:13-14**

“In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgement is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.”

- Objective truth is ignored because of subjective opinions.
- Emotionalism rules over facts. It’s all how you perceive it.
- Conspiracies, propaganda, controversy fills our newsfeed.
- The pressure to be WOKE influences our youth.
- Critical race theory is being preached from every social media platform.
- Following inspiring Instagram accounts, motivating podcasts, informative Facebook groups, and trendy Twitter posts become the extent of culture’s belief system.
- If you threaten culture, then you are canceled!

“The true church will do its best work in the last days” – Pastor Matt Jones

- The churches mission has not changed even when the culture around it has... your job is to still teach, preach, and live the truth, whole truth, and nothing but the truth!

- **Your job is to speak the truth, not your own testament!** While your personal experiences are important your personal commentary is not Gospel!
- As a Sunday School teacher, Children Church Worker, Church Member, Deacon, Pastor – you must know the truth, deliver the truth, and live the truth!

4 Principles that are a Must:

1. Must make sure my leadership is worthy of trust.

- Our culture has preconditioned people not to trust the message and minister of God.
- Build a culture of trust that prevents lies from spreading.
- Don't give this world anymore ammo of how hypocritical, fake, and shallow the church is.

2. Must recognize this is spiritual warfare.

- We are not fighting against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. – Eph 6:12
- If the enemy can get you distracted with abstract truth, fleshly arguments, intellectual rhetoric, and unnecessary social media drama, then the churches mission will be hindered!
- This battle can only be won the power of the Holy Ghost being present in our lives, our services, and our messages!
- Your weapons are mighty and can pull down the strongholds that are in our world's culture!

3. Must be a balance between relevance and reverence in the church.

- “It is not possible to be faithful and popular simultaneously.” – John Scott
- In the search to be relevant to a modern generation, the church has lost its reverence for things of God.
 - The Bible is barely preached, the altars are gone, the church is filled with coffee cups and ripped jeans,
- We don’t need a new gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is relevant to every nation, tribe, and language.
- The mission of the Gospel is still the same – to bring about change!
- There must be a difference between the world and church culture.
 - An excerpt from an article in 2018 – The Local Church as a Counterculture. Brett McCracken received an email from a lapsed, lazy, backsliding, and confused Christian:

**I don't want church to be a mirror image of my life, in all its uncertainty and weakness. I want church to be church, to be challenged, to disagree (not be cozily affirmed), to be my refuge and my rock. I may be someone who cusses from time to time myself, who gets drunk, who has done lots of things I shouldn't have done (and still do), but that doesn't mean I want to be seeing those things where I (very occasionally) worship. The point of church and faith is that they are sanctuaries from ourselves, they are places where we can lay it all down and know that God hears us, that he forgives us, and that we are only saved by his grace.*

- Also, relevance is a must because the Gospel is the answer to every question.
- Why have we let the world give an answer to culture’s questions when the church has the answers!
 - The word of God is still relevant to today’s questions.

- You can have a high reverence but not fail to help people with everyday issues. Marriage, parenting, fighting depression, freedom from addictions, health.
 - Freedom from “finding yourself” and finding identity in Christ.
 - Living the best life is only because of Christ giving his life for you... not because you deserve it.
 - How to become a healthier Christian without compromising and making yourself an idol.
- Top self-help books for 2021:
 - 7 Habits of highly effective people
 - Declutter Your Mind
 - How to Win Friends & Influence People
 - Make Your Bed
 - Awaken the Giant Within
 - The Power of Self-Discipline
 - Finding Your Own North Star
- We must be able to teach and preach relevant issues that can help our new converts, children, youth, adults, and seniors grow in their faith.

4. Must stay anchored to truths that cannot be cancelled!

- The throne of God –
 - Ps 45:6 - Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever! Forever settled in the heaven
 - Lam 5:19 – Thou, O Lord, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.
- The word of God
 - 1 Peter 1:25 – But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.
 - The promises, prophecies, and principles found in the word of God cannot be cancelled.

- The church of God
 - Matt 16: 18 – That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - The church has carried the truth thru persecution, famine, plagues, false accusations, war, Great Depressions, economy collapse, civil unrest, pandemics.... The truth is still marching on!
- The child of God
 - Rom 8: 38-39- Death, life, angels, principalities, powers, present things, future things, height, depth, creatures... and not even cancel culture can separate you from the love of God!

You can still be an effective church even in a cancel culture society by countering with the power, demonstration, and love of God!