

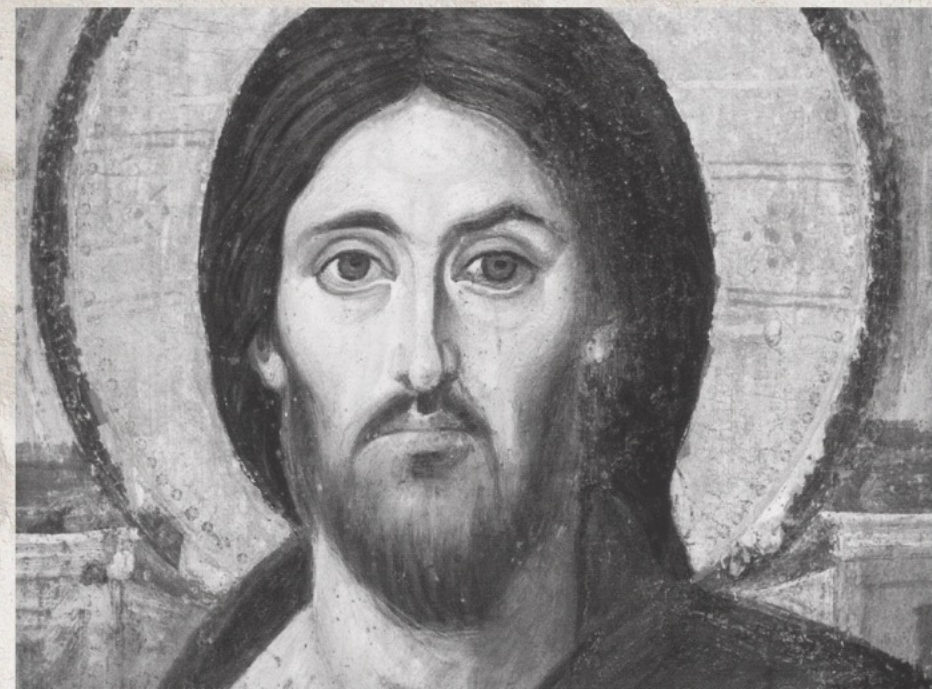
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BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Fall 2022 Sermon Series

Christ & Culture

Following Jesus in a Fallen World

As followers of Jesus, we are called to embrace his teachings and example, proclaim the truth of the gospel, and engage the world around us by embodying the good news. What does that look like today? The Scriptures are a guide in helping us to faithfully navigate an idolatrous world as the people of God. As we read the Bible, we can see that it takes a mixed view of all human cultures. While many elements of culture can be affirmed, we must avoid uncritically





What is Culture?

Ken Myers (Christian cultural critic) said that culture is:

“What human beings make of the world – in both senses.”

- The things we make
- The meaning we make

Therefore, the culture of a people and place will ultimately reflect the dominant worldview, beliefs, values, etc.

–From “Culture Making” by Andy Crouch



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The Christian & the World: Unhealthy Postures Toward Culture

- **Condemn** culture (withdraw or war against it)
- **Critique** culture (only discuss & debate ideas)
- **Copy** culture (offer cheap imitations & alternatives)
- **Consume** culture (mostly mindless conformity)



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The Christian & the World: A Kingdom Approach to Culture

Disciples create culture and follow Jesus by:

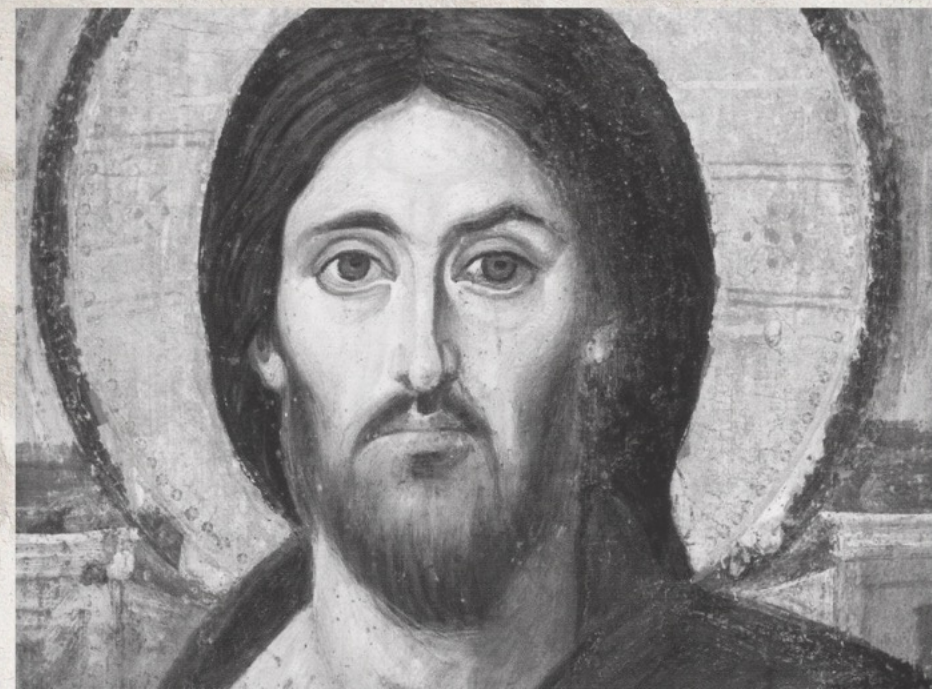
1. Entering the culture (affirming what we can)
2. Challenging the culture (confronting its idols & darkness)
3. Appealing to its listeners (offering a new story & vision)

—From "Center Church" by Tim Keller

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Cultural Convictions of Conscience (6 of 7)

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Letter to the Romans - Overview

1:18-32 – We are lost in sin unless God steps in to save us

2:1-3:8 – The Law can't save us; it magnifies our sin

3:9-26 – God's salvation comes through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus--a new humanity!

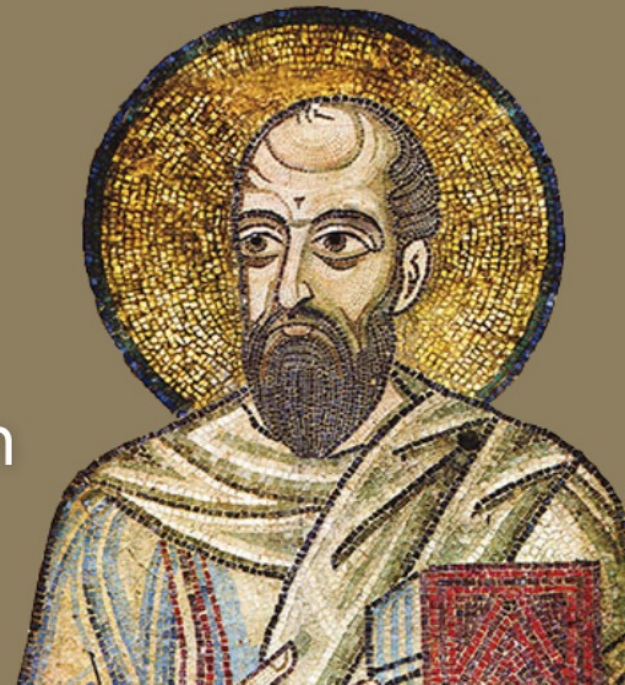
4 – A faith-based, multi-ethnic/cultural, family

5-8 – Sin & death via Adam, love & life via Jesus

9-11 – Israel's rejection fulfilled God's purposes

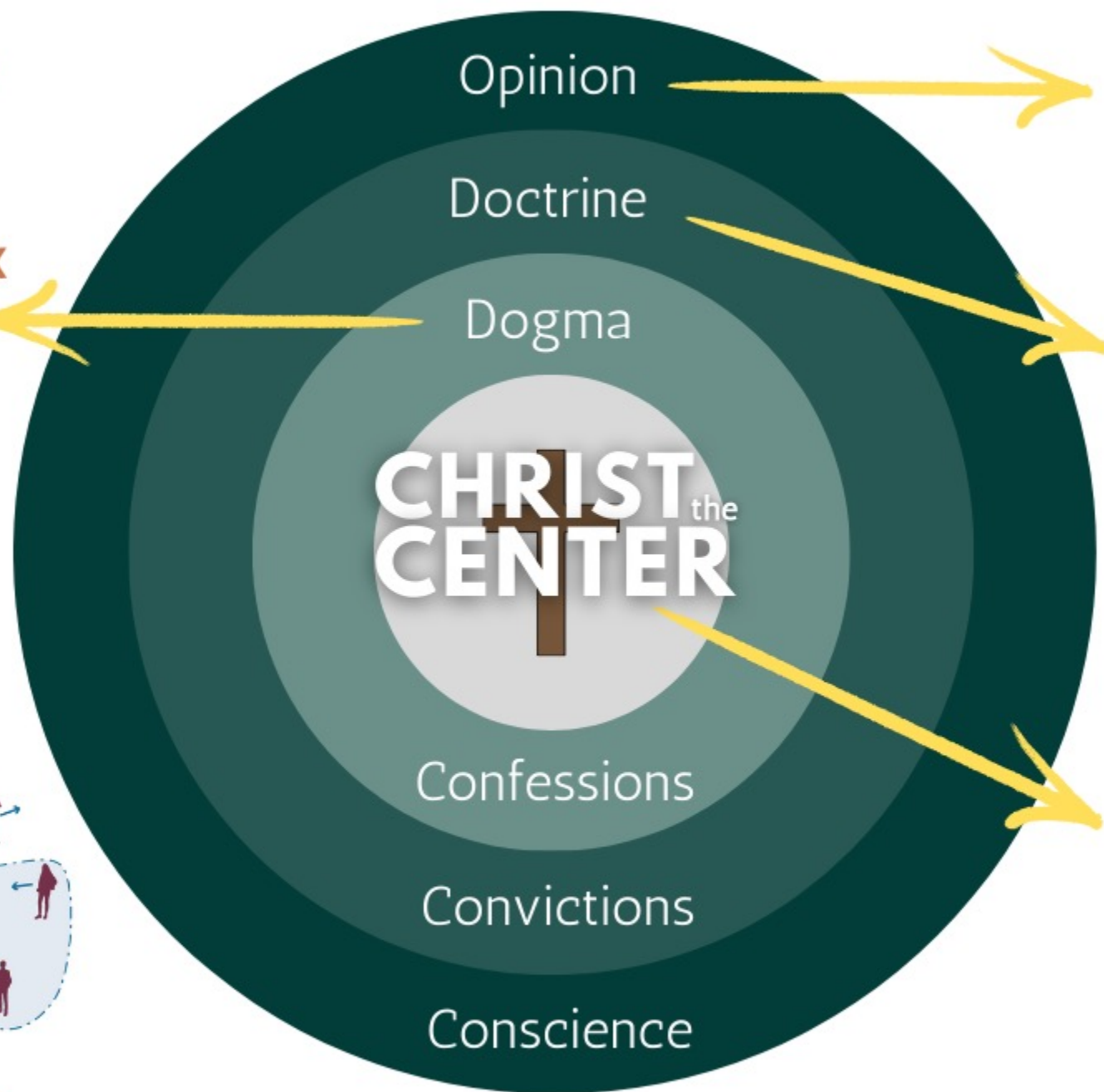
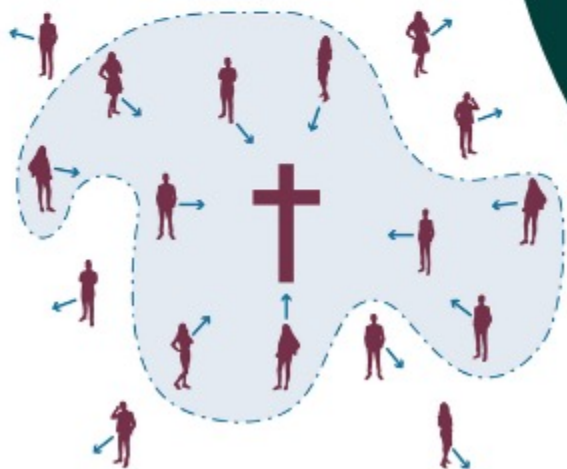
-- **The Pastoral and Practical Application** --

12-16 – Jews and Gentiles must be unified through love, despite their cultural convictions



Historic-Orthodox Christian Beliefs:

- early creeds (Apostles' & Nicene)
- full humanity & divinity of Jesus
- God as Trinity



Personal Opinions

liberty regarding non-essential matters

Beliefs, Traditions & Faith Practices

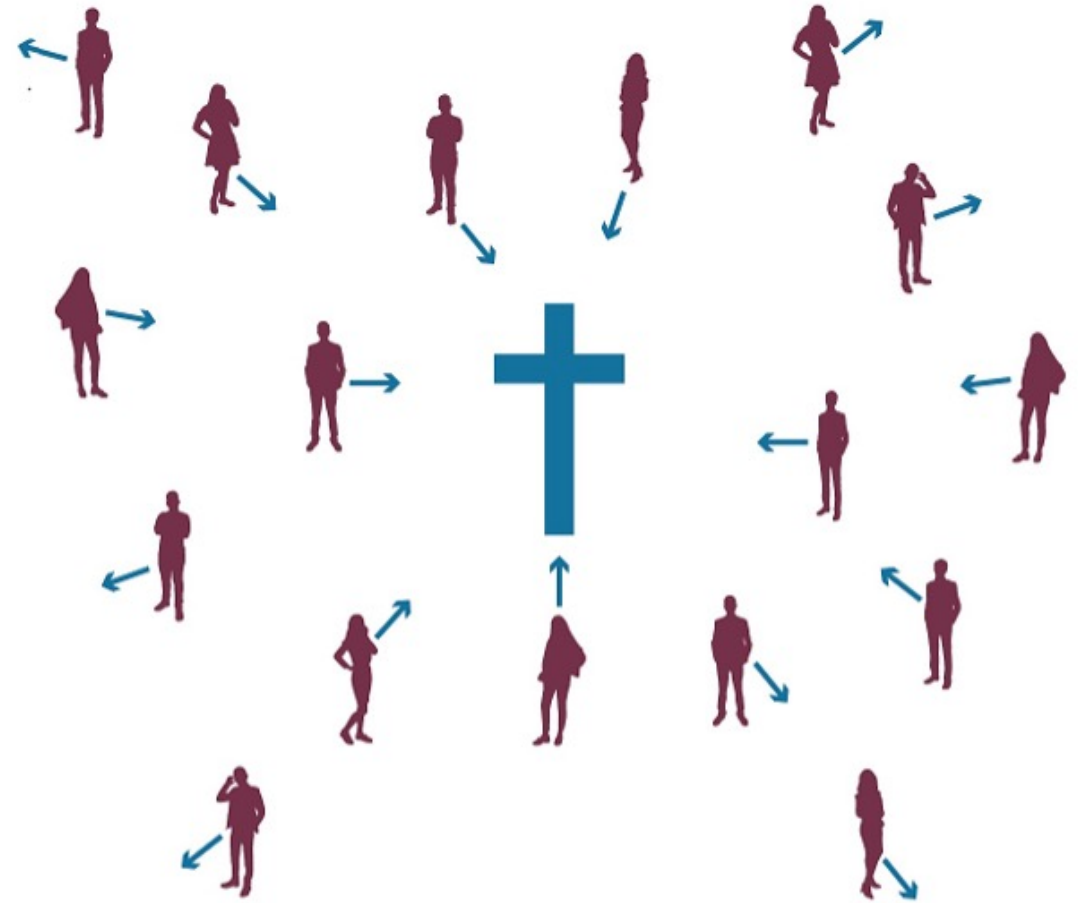
- interpretations of dogma & Bible
- BIC values & distinctives

Jesus Christ

as revealed in the New Testament
(John 1:1-18; 3:16-17; 14:6-9; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; 1 John 4:7-21)

Centered Church

A **Centered Church** discerns who belongs to the group by observing people's relationship with the center—Jesus Christ. The group includes all who are oriented toward the center. Their common direction brings unity. There is space to struggle and fail because they believe that everyone is in process—moving closer to the center. A centered approach remedies the problems of a bounded church that motivate a fuzzy church to blur boundaries, while also avoiding the negative fruit that grows out of a fuzzy approach.



Clashing Cultural Convictions in the Church

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Cuss words
- Clothing
- Music
- TV/Movies
- Video Games
- Social Media
- Dating
- Marriage Roles
- Parenting
- Sexuality
- Education
- Vaccines
- Medicine
- Politics





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Romans 14:1-23



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Romans 14 – Paul on cultural convictions of conscience:



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Romans 14 – Paul on cultural convictions of conscience:

1. Follow the convictions that God has given *you* personally.

Convictions come via prayer, the Bible, conversation, reflection, etc.



Romans 14 – Paul on cultural convictions of conscience:

- 1. Follow the convictions that God has given *you* personally.**

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- 2. Do not judge those who have different convictions.**

Be humble and respectful as you believe the best about others.



Romans 14 – Paul on cultural convictions of conscience:

- 1. Follow the convictions that God has given *you* personally.**

Convictions come via prayer, the Bible, conversation, reflection, etc.

- 2. Do not judge those who have different convictions.**

Be humble and respectful as you believe the best about others.

- 3. Honor the conscience of other disciples when you're with them.**

The faith of others is far more important than your freedom.

Paul, Ephesians 4:1-6 NIV

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



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Cultural Convictions of Conscience

Questions for reflection and response:

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1. Think about your own convictions. Have those convictions been shaped by Christ, the Scriptures, and the gospel?

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1. Think about your own convictions. Have those convictions been shaped by Christ, the Scriptures, and the gospel?
2. Do you judge others who have different convictions?

Cultural Convictions of Conscience

Questions for reflection and response:

1. Think about your own convictions. Have those convictions been shaped by Christ, the Scriptures, and the gospel?
2. Do you judge others who have different convictions?
3. How is God inviting you to be more loving, humble, and patient with others as you keep the unity of the Spirit?

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