

Christ & Culture (5 of 7)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, October 9th, 2022



Series Focus: 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? 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 accepting aspects of culture without first examining them in light of Christ and the gospel. Therefore, we must learn to contextualize the gospel and use cultural discernment as we live in the world as faithful disciples. In this 7-part sermon series—*Christ & Culture*—disciples of Jesus are invited to apply the gospel to every area of life as we seek to follow him in a fallen world.

Sermon Title: These Are the Stories We Tell

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:105; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 5:15-17

Sermon Focus: We cannot escape secular culture. It is everywhere and it aims to shape our beliefs and values. For disciples, some of that is obvious to us. However, a lot of it is not. And that is a serious concern because the dominate culture wants us to accept its answers to the most important questions in life. Therefore, we need to lean on God's wisdom and use cultural discernment. In the fifth message of our series, Pastor David uncovers the stories our culture tells, and invites us to see through gospel lenses.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-20 together. Before Paul addresses the stories of Corinthian culture that are at work in the church, he reminds his audience of how God's wisdom and power is not like that of the world. Therefore, we should expect that the gospel is going to challenge the stories we hear in culture. How do these verses speak to the so-called "wisdom" and "power" of our own day?
2. Pastor David addressed five big questions that we're asking today, and he compared our culture's answers with those given in the gospel. Spend some time discussing each of these with your group. What does American culture say? Give some examples of that. Also, reflect on what the gospel says in contrast.
 1. Identity – "Who are we? Who am I?"
 2. Purpose – "Why are we here? Why am I here?"
 3. Evil & Suffering – "Why is the world so messed up?"
 4. Redemption – "Who or what is going to save us?"
 5. Future – "Will there be a happy ending?"
3. As disciples, we want our worldview to be shaped by Christ and the Scriptures. We want to see our culture through gospel lenses as faithful exiles. Pastor David offered these three things as a guide to cultural discernment:

Conscience – Are you listening to your conscience?

Context – Are you mindful of others (especially non-believers)?

Community – Are you letting other disciples speak into your life?

Give some examples of how you have been sensitive to these things in your decision-making as a follower of Jesus. How have you struggled in any of these areas in the past? What advice would you give to other disciples.

4. Be honest. How aware are you of the stories that American culture is telling you through what you watch, listen to, read, and play? Do you think your thoughts and feelings are being shaped more by Christ, the Scriptures, and the gospel, or by the stories of the world? What might the Spirit be inviting you to do in being more intentional with how you engage and resist the stories of culture?
5. What challenged you the most from this message? What encouraged you the most? What did you discover? Any new thoughts or clarity on the gospel?