

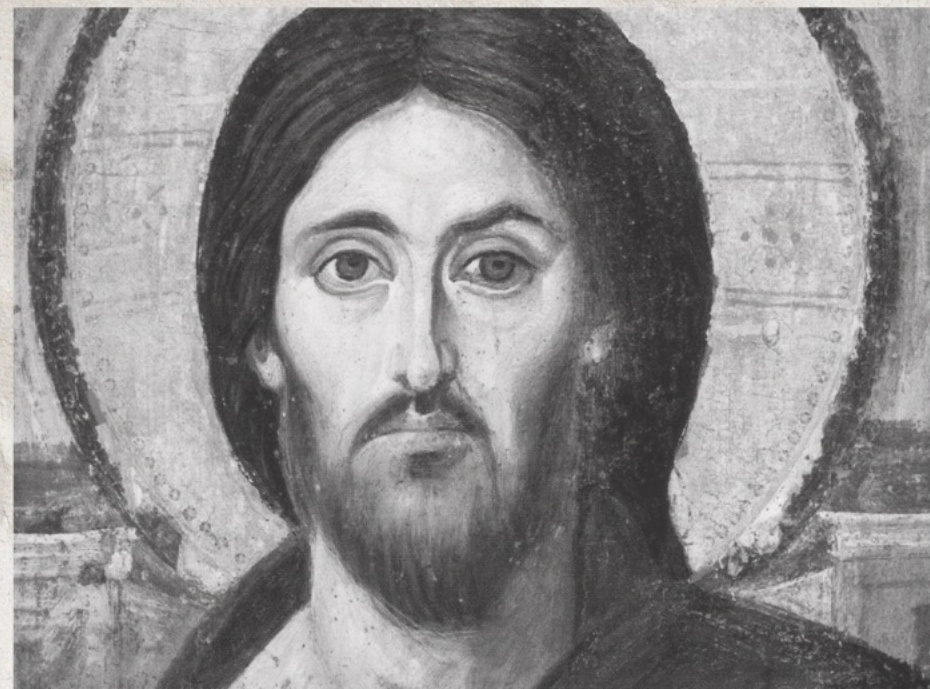
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BRETHREN IN CHRIST

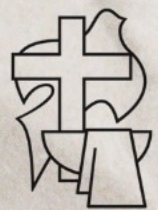
Fall 2022 Sermon Series

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





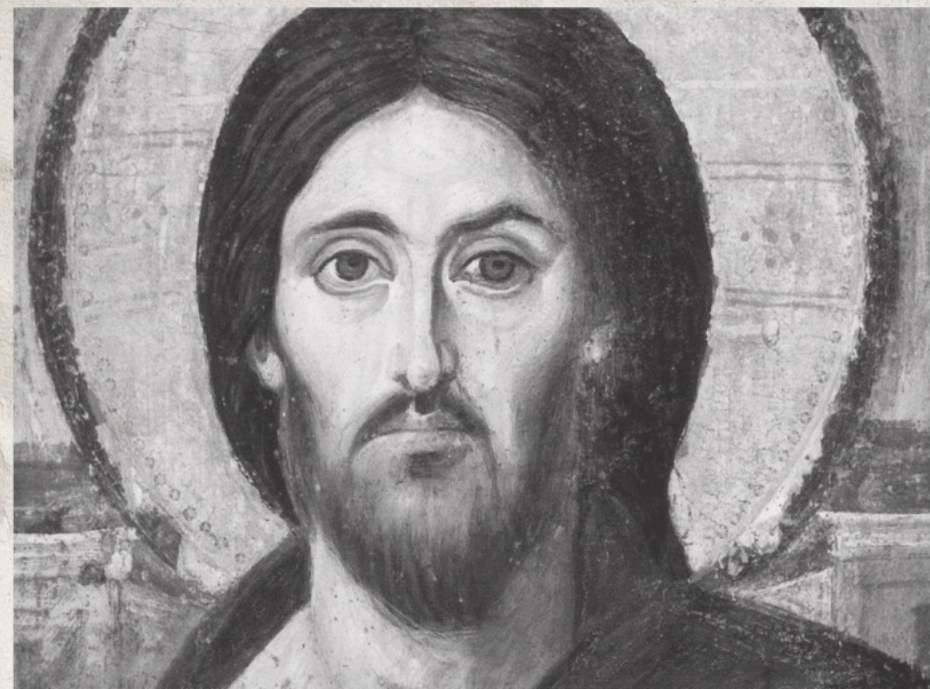
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Fall 2022 Sermon Series

Christ & Culture

In the World but Not of It (1 of 7)

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John 17:15-19 NIV – Jesus' Final Prayer for His Disciples

¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

John 15:18-19 NIV

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

John 3:16-17 NIV

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

THE

GOSPEL

OF
THE

KINGDOM

what it is, why it matters, and how it mobilizes the church

What is the Good News?

The gospel *story* of how God has been at work in the world and is now redeeming it in Jesus Christ—who will one day return to bring the fullness of the Kingdom.

What is the Kingdom of God?

The reign and rule of God on the earth, which always looks like Jesus (e.g., loving others, healing, reconciling, sacrificing self, showing mercy, doing justice, etc.).



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FALL 2021 SERMON SERIES

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.

John 1:14 MSG



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 dominate worldview, beliefs, values, etc.

–From “Culture Making” by Andy Crouch



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Christ & Culture

The Christian & the World: Unhealthy Postures Toward Culture



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The Christian & the World: Unhealthy Postures Toward Culture

- **Condemn** culture (withdraw or war against it)



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Christ & Culture

The Christian & the World: Unhealthy Postures Toward Culture

- **Condemn** culture (withdraw or war against it)
- **Critique** culture (only discuss & debate ideas)



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Christ & Culture

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)



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Christ & Culture

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)

Paul, Colossians 1:15-20 NIV

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things have been created through him and for him.** ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, **so that in everything he might have the supremacy.** ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Paul, Ephesians 5:8-11, 15-17 NLT

⁸ For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So, **live as people of light!**

⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

¹⁰ **Carefully determine** [discern] what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, **expose** them.



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Christ & Culture

In the World but Not of It

Questions for reflection and response:

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1. Are you a follower of Jesus and have you taken seriously the call to be in the world but not of it (holy, set apart, etc.)?

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Questions for reflection and response:

1. Are you a follower of Jesus and have you taken seriously the call to be in the world but not of it (holy, set apart, etc.)?
2. Are you gravitating toward any unhealthy postures toward the world and culture: condemn, critique, copy, consume?

In the World but Not of It

Questions for reflection and response:

1. Are you a follower of Jesus and have you taken seriously the call to be in the world but not of it (holy, set apart, etc.)?
2. Are you gravitating toward any unhealthy postures toward the world and culture: condemn, critique, copy, consume?
3. How is Jesus inviting you to see the world the way he does?

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in a Fallen World

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