

# ENGAGING CULTURE

How do we respond to the rapid changes in our moral landscape?

Poverty – Same Sex Marriage – Racism  
Sex Slavery – Immigration – Persecution  
Abortion – Orphans – Pornography  
Identity – Gender – Violence – Religion  
Morality – Worldviews – Media – Arts

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Latin: Culture

To make something of nature; to care for the soil to benefit humanity (Agriculture, Horticulture)

16<sup>th</sup> century definition: Cultivate the mind, faculties, manners

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Latin: Culture

20<sup>th</sup> century definition:

Reordering the shared beliefs, values and social practices of a society to express meaning.

Highlighting what is the good, important, real, and true things.

Culture: rearranging raw materials to express meaning.

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## 1 Peter 3:15-16

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

<sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

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Blessed are you when men hate you, And  
when they exclude you, And revile you,  
and cast out your name as evil, For the  
Son of Man's sake. . . .

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<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

<sup>28</sup> "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

<sup>29</sup> "To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> "Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.

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<sup>31</sup> "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. <sup>32</sup> "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> "And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

<sup>34</sup> "And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.



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<sup>35</sup> "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

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Are we making this too difficult?

- The human condition means everyone deals with heartbreaks.
- Talk to others about Biblical truths and principles
- Represent Christ as well as you can at work.
- The fruit of the Spirit is primarily relational. When God is working in you, much of the time it will be relating to others.
- Simply, do your best to love those around you who have not trusted Jesus.

# Communion

Remembering His sacrifice.



A dark, atmospheric street view of a city, likely New York City, with tall buildings lining the street. A bus is visible in the foreground, and the text "ENGAGING CULTURE" is overlaid in white with a yellow horizontal bar behind it.

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