

A dark, grainy photograph of a city street at night, showing tall buildings and a bus in the foreground.

# ENGAGING CULTURE

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*46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?*

*47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.*

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*49 "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

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Deuteronomy 12:8 "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today-- every man doing whatever *is* right in his own eyes--

Judges 17:6 In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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*"We have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and true religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*

John Adams, Founding Father & Second President  
in his address to military leaders.

# ENGAGING CULTURE

## *The Great Unravelling & Polarization*

- Political Polarization

*Thoughts from “To Change the world” by James Davidson Hunter  
Outline from Tim Keller*

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## *The Great Unravelling & Polarization*

- Political Polarization
- Religious & Secular Polarization

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## *The Great Unravelling & Polarization*

- Political Polarization
- Religious & Secular Polarization
- Polarization of Wealth and Class

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# ENGAGING CULTURE

## *The Great Unravelling & Polarization*

- Political Polarization
- Religious & Secular Polarization
- Polarization of Wealth and Class
- Unravelling of all Social Institutions

*Thoughts from “To Change the world” by James Davidson Hunter  
Outline from Tim Keller*

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## *What are the Challenges for the Church in America?*

- Evangelism & Mission

*Social Benefit*

*Social Pressure*

*Social Cost*

# ENGAGING CULTURE

*What are the Challenges for the Church in America?*

- Evangelism & Mission
- Discipleship & Spiritual Formation

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## *What are the Challenges for the Church in America?*

### Four Secular Articles of Faith about Human Nature & Purpose:

- Don't Judge: No one has the right to tell anyone what's right or wrong for him or her.
- You should be free to live your life any way you want as long as you don't harm others.
- You have to be true to yourself.
- In the end, you must do what makes you happy.

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## *What are the Challenges for the Church in America?*

*“There is nothing so absurd that if you repeat it often enough, people will believe it.”*

William James

57% of all people under the age of 25  
spend 4 hours/day on social media.

28% spend 8 hours/day.

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## *What are the Challenges for the Church in America?*

- Evangelism & Mission
- Discipleship & Spiritual Formation
- Political Allegiance and Polarization

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## Five Ways for the church to Respond to Culture

### 1. Recapture how to do evangelism

- Move toward individual engagement and personal relationships rather than event oriented evangelism.
- Note: Over time, inviting people to come to an event or a celebrity speaker will fade away.

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## Five Ways for the church to Respond to Culture

1. Recapture how to do evangelism
2. Learn how to deconstruct the stories and “truths” of secularism, while constructing a Spiritual Formation for the future (Rom 12:2)

What are the beliefs behind the stories our culture is telling?

Can you make the beliefs behind the stories and songs visible to your family?



Disney  
**THE**  
**LION KING**



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## Five Ways for the church to Respond to Culture

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3. Work toward an alternate cultural economy.

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3. Work toward an alternate cultural economy.
4. Reclaim the early church social values.

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## Five Ways the Early Church Defied all Categories

- They were multiethnic
- They were committed to the poor
- They never retaliated
- They were pro life
- They were a sexual counter culture

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## Five Ways for the church to Respond to Culture

1. Recapture how to do evangelism
2. Learn how to deconstruct the stories and “truths” of secularism, while constructing a Spiritual Formation for the future
3. Work toward an alternate cultural economy.
4. Reclaim the early church social values.
5. Hold on to grace.

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## Final Thought

Matt. 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter,  
and on this rock I will build my church, and  
the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.