

CULTURE ~~WARS~~ ENGAGEMENT

Our goal is be equipped to effectively love God and love others in an ever-increasingly counter Christian culture.

Our Cultural Context:

1. We live in a fallen world populated with broken and sinful people who are being guided by ungodly and deceitful philosophies. (Rom 1:18-32)
2. Our culture has rejected the concept of absolute truth and embraced relativism. (2 Tim 4:3-4)
3. The lifestyles, standards, and actions of our culture reflect the godless value system that the culture has embraced.

Culture War:

- Fight and debate between polarized groups over value, moral, and truth issues
- Fueled by outrage
- Choose to strike back as opposed to turning the other cheek
- Seek to defeat, destroy, or humiliate the opposition

Cultural Engagement:

- Oppose the evils of society in order to be salt and light
Absolutely contend for godly values in the way we live vote
- Choose not only a truthful position, but a graceful tone
- Seek the rescue of our opponents not their ruin
- Desire to convert our opponents instead of destroying them

We are not at war with our ideological opponents—we are at war for them.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Week 2: Sexuality

Sex is a Gift

May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. Proverbs 5:18-19

Sex is Powerful

Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? ²⁸ Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? ²⁹ So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. Proverbs 6:27-29

Sex has a Proper Context: Marriage

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Hebrews 13:4

Sex is to be expressed in the context of a heterosexual, monogamous, faithful marriage relationship for life. God designed sex biologically, relationally, emotionally, and spiritually to be expressed in the context of a covenant relationship between a man and woman. It is an intimate act to be shared only with your spouse in faithfulness for life.

Therefore any sex outside of marriage is out of bounds, it is outside of God's will, it is sin. That includes rape, incest, bestiality, pre-marital sex, extra marital sex, homosexual sex, multiple partner sex, and pornographic sex.

Warning Against Sexual Immorality

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Cor 6:18-20

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Ephesians 5:3

Homosexuality

Understand the terminology:

- L** Lesbian female whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional attraction is for female
- G** Gay male whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional attraction is for male
- B** Bisexual enduring physical, romantic, emotional attraction is for both male and female
- T** Transgender gender identity and/or gender expression is different from the sex assigned at birth.
- Q** Questioning individuals who are unsure of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity

Homosexual Identity Spectrum:

Same Sex Attraction

Homosexual Orientation

Gay Identity

Same Sex “Attraction”

describes feelings
does not describe behavior
not sought, not developed, just is

Homosexual “Orientation”

describes strong tendencies/feelings
persistent/durable
bisexuality possible (not inevitable)
some behavior likely (not surely)

Gay “Identity”

socio-cultural label
settled identity: personhood defined first (foremost) as to sexual identity
homosexual behavior
opposite of heterosexual

“Why is sexual sin so hard to deal with? Because often sexual sin becomes a sin of identity.”

Rosaria Butterfield, *Openness Unhindered*

The Pressure of Cultural Conformity

The LGBTQ community is driving a political and social agenda to force widespread and universal validation of their lifestyle as the norm.

We will continue to face ever increasing pressure to condone and embrace the LGBTQ lifestyle or face the moral outrage of the cancel culture.

We are called to counterculture living. We are to hold firmly to the convictions of the scripture without compromise.

We should expect that this counter cultural view of sexuality will be rejected, ridiculed, and possibly considered hateful.

This is why our truth should always be balanced with love and grace.