

# CHRIST & CULTURE

Week 1: God Created Life  
Genesis 2:7

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, September 1st, 2024



Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the  
midst of wolves, so be **wise as serpents**  
and **innocent as doves.**

*Matthew 10:16 ESV*

# Understanding Culture

“Cultures consist of those products of human activity that have collectively taken on a life of their own. The worlds we create powerfully influence our lives by **convincing us of what is normal**. As we live in culture, we become committed to its vision of life, **unless we’re intentional otherwise**. In other words, we make our cultures, and **then our cultures shape us**.”

*Stonestreet & Kunkle*  
*A Practical Guide to Culture*

“Though cultural undercurrents are invisible, they powerfully pressure us to conform to their collective assumptions about the world. Cultural issues, however, are more like waves: seen, heard, and felt. Understanding them both is critically important **if we’re to keep our heads above water.**”

*Stonestreet & Kunkle*

“The most dangerous **ideas** in a society are not the ones that are being argued, but the ones **that are assumed.**”

*C. S. Lewis*

# The Death of God

**“The modern West is indeed in a state of endless flux and offers us no place to stand, no firm grasp on who we are.”**

*Carl R. Trueman*  
*The Desecration of Man*



**The death of God is necessary as a precondition to man's self-transcendence.**

*Friedrich Nietzsche*

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies...

*Romans 1:21-24 ESV*

IDENTITY

to Jerusalem and  
Mount of Olives,  
saying to them,  
of you, and immed-  
ately, and scold-  
ing them to say, If  
you shall say, The  
I will send them at  
I will what was

to you!  
a donkey,  
of burden

to him and then  
Hosanna to the  
who comes in the  
in the highest!"  
them, the whole city  
of the... And the  
Jesus, from

"When Jesus returned to Jerusalem, he  
went on to the Temple and said, 'I will  
build for you a temple, not with stone  
but with you. It will take forty years to  
complete, but I will complete it in  
three days.'"

**Sacrificed on the altar of self-centeredness,  
we have lost the connection to our true  
significance.**

...to drink, and I will  
rink it. When they had  
and up his... eating lots. And sitting  
for watch over him... Above his head they  
the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the  
Jews.

# Our Cultural Journey

# Universities, Colleges and Public Schools

**Harvard:** Established by the Massachusetts Colonial Legislature (1636) “dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches.”

**“The religion of Jesus Christ is the best form of religion and should be taught in public schools.”**

*Benjamin Rush*

# The Religious Establishment



# Civil Government

Our Constitution was made **only for a moral and religious people.** It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

*John Adams*

**“Religion and Morality are the essential pillars of civil society.”**

*George Washington*

**“Nothing brings more pain than too much pleasure, nothing more bondage than too much liberty.”**

*Benjamin Franklin*

**“The moral and religious system which Jesus Christ transmitted to us is the best the world has ever seen, or can see.”**

*Benjamin Franklin*

**When the transcendent is removed morality fades. When morality is removed from the public sector ambition reigns. The “ends justifies the means” becomes the guiding principle & deception becomes the mechanism for advancement. When deception takes root culture is consummately destabilized.**



# CHRIST & CULTURE

**“Gentlemen, this is a football.”**

*Vince Lombardi*

to Jerusalem and  
Mount of Olives,  
saying to them,  
of you, and imme-  
tey tied, and scold-  
ing them to say, If  
you shall say, "The  
y'll send them at  
fill what was

to you!  
a donkey,  
of burden."

ate him and than  
"Hosanna to the  
who comes in the  
in the highest!"  
dem, the whole city  
his the." And the  
Jesus, from



ink it. When they had  
asting lots. And sitting  
Above his head they  
the writen charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the



IDENTITY

to Jerusalem and  
Mount of Olives,  
saying to them,  
of you, and imme-  
they tied, and scold-  
ing them to say, If  
you shall say, "The  
of I send them at  
I fulfill what was

to you!  
a donkey,  
of burden."

ate him and than  
"Hosanna to the  
who comes in the  
in the highest!"  
dem, the whole city  
in the." And the  
of Jesus, from

"When Jesus" reports that he and his  
went on ahead to the Temple and there and  
said, "I just go back for a charge against him.  
Because it is customary for us to release to you one  
prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you  
want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"

# Back to the Basics

...to drink, and I will  
rink it. When they had  
and up his dish, eating  
lots. And sitting  
watch over him. Above  
his head they  
the written charge  
against him: THIS IS  
JESUS, THE KING OF  
THE JEWS.

# 1. In The Beginning, God Created

In the beginning, God created...

*Genesis 1:1 ESV*



# CHRIST & CULTURE

## 2. He Created People in His Image

**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

*Genesis 1:26-27 ESV*

...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

*Genesis 2:7 ESV*

### 3. All Have Inherent Value

**For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

### 3. All Have Inherent Value

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

*Psalm 139:13-16 ESV*



# CHRIST & CULTURE



**I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life...**

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ESV*

# 1. Pursue Christ Alone

**Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

*1 John 5:12 ESV*

## 2. Fill Your “**Eye**” with the “**Light**” of Christ

**The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.**

*Matthew 6:22-23 ESV*

### 3. Value Others Above Yourself

**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.**

*Philippians 2:3 ESV*

**For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

*Matthew 16:25 ESV*

# Seek to See All as Image-Bearers

**Today, even as belief in God fades across the West, the countries that were once collectively known as Christendom continue to bear the stamp of the two-millennia-old revolution that Christianity represents. It is the principal reason why, by and large, most of us who live in post-Christian societies still take for granted that it is nobler to suffer than to inflict suffering.**

**It is why we generally assume that every human life is of equal value. In my morals and ethics, I have learned to accept that I am not Greek or Roman at all, but thoroughly and proudly Christian.**

*Tom Holland*