

Reflecting on Culture Clash

- **Day one. Read Mark 2:15-17 and 1Corinthians 5:11-13**

Jesus is often seen eating and drinking with “sinners” and apparently has a relationship with them. Yet Paul instructs the church to have nothing to do with a sinner. How can you reconcile this apparent contradiction?

Pray. Ask God to help you to understand your proper relationship to believers and unbelievers with respect to sin.

- **Day Two. Read Matthew 10:16-20; Daniel 1, 3, 6**

The culture in which we live may at times be tolerant and at times be antagonistic. Daniel and his friends found themselves living under a foreign power that demonstrated these tendencies. Read the stories of how they navigated the tension of being “in that world but not of that world.” See what principles you can draw for living with this tension in your current culture.

Pray. Ask God to show you how to apply these insights to your particular situations in life.

- **Day Three. Read Titus 2:11-14**

What are the “worldly passions” you need to say “No” to? Where do you need to show more self-control (which is really Spirit-control)? How can you live more “upright and godly”? Is your life a reflection of hope to those around you? How eager are you to do good?

Pray. Ask God to help you live out the directives in this passage.

New Life Lessons
 April 9th-10th, 2016
 Pastor Dave Vasquez

Clash of Cultures

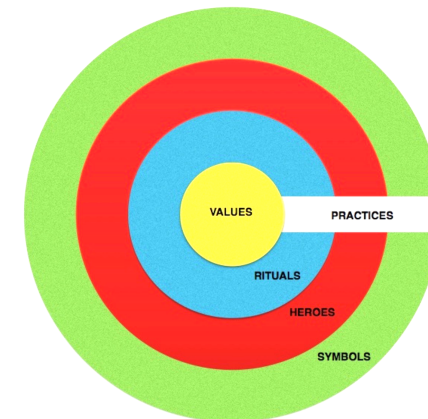
Clash #2 – Kingdoms in Conflict

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV) ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Kingdoms in conflict • Cultures in tension

KINGDOM OF CHRIST	KINGDOM OF SATAN
Who “we” are	Who “they” are
Light, righteousness	Darkness, wickedness
How I affect them	How they affect us

The Nature of Culture



Living in the “Culture Clash”

1. Be separate but not isolated.

2Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (NIV) ¹⁷ ...“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” ¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” ^{7:1} Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Mark 2:16-17 (NIV) ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the “sinners” and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: “Why does he eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Matthew 11:19; John 8:46; 17:14

John 17:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Colossians 4:5

1Peter 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart 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...

2. Be inclusive but not compromising.

Leviticus 19:34 (NIV) ³⁴ The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

Matthew 25:34-35 (NIV) ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. Ephesians 2:12-13, 19

1Corinthians 14:24-25 (NIV) ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, ²⁵ and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

Numbers 15:15-16 (NIV) ²⁴ The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before the LORD: ²⁵ The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the alien living among you.” 1Corinthians 5:1-2, 11-13

3. Be relevant but not conformed.

1Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV) ¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings

Romans 12:2 (NIV) ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Matthew 10:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.