



WEDNESDAY, 7:00 PM

Evening Service

Dr. Kevin Schaal

Culturally Non-Conformist

Regarding Christians and Culture

“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 You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”
(John 17:14–16, NASB)

I. What is culture?

- A. T. S. Elliot’s
- B. “Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.” What does it NOT include? Kenneth Myers, p. 27
- C. Kenneth Myers says that culture and religion are two aspects of the same thing.
- D. Culture is defined by the values of a society and the application of those values to all aspects of life. These values would include what is good and evil, beautiful and ugly, desirable and undesirable, valuable and worthless, what it loves and what it hates. These values become a culture’s benchmarks or standards by which everything in the culture is judged.
- E. There are three value systems developed in most cultures that are somewhat outside of moral values.
 - 1. Folk culture
 - 2. High culture
 - 3. Popular culture

II. Is there such thing as a Christian culture? Romans 12:1–2

- A. This would be the application of the values of Christianity to all aspects of life and ministry. We have renewed minds and transformed lives. Our view of the world is totally different than those without Christ.
 - 1. This is not just an intellectual reality.
 - 2. This is, and must be, a supernatural reality produced by submission to the Spirit. A carnal Christian can be ignorant of a biblical culture as he makes his case for what he likes in the general culture.
- B. Traditional culture and Christian culture are not synonymous.
- C. Conservative culture and Christian culture are not synonymous.

III. How do we live in two cultures at the same time? John 17:14–16

- A. Christians are required by Christ to live in the culture.
- B. Cultural interaction is not avoidable for believers.
 - 1. Isolation is not possible because it is not the will of Christ.
 - 2. Cultural interaction is beneficial because it constantly requires us to think through the core issues of our faith.
 - 3. True believers have historically understood this.
- C. Christians must not be defined by the culture. That is because we are substantially different from the culture that surrounds us.
 - 1. Christians are not “of” the culture that we inhabit.
 - 2. Being hated by the present culture is the expected condition of believers.
 - 3. Jesus prayed that we would be kept from the evil of the culture.
 - 4. Present culture is focused upon this age.
 - 5. Present culture denies God or creates a god to its own liking.
 - 6. Present culture seeks a level of popular conformity; Christians are required to be Christ-like.