

## A Place to Begin: John 18:33-38 & Philippians 3:20

### Introducing a New Sermon Series

“Thinking Christianly About All of Life” (\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_!)

- Thinking Christianly About Culture: Is Culture a Friend or a Foe?
- Thinking Christianly About Truth: Is Anything True?
- Thinking Christianly About Politics: Is God a Republican or a Democrat?
- Thinking Christianly About Marriage: Does Traditional Marriage Matter?
- Thinking Christianly About Gender: Why Did God Create Male & Female?
- Thinking Christianly About Race: Is True Healing Possible for a Racially Broken World?
- Talking Christianly in a Divided World: Why Civility is a Christian Virtue.
- Trusting God in a World Aflame: The Gospel Necessity of Both Sorrow and Joy.

#### Some Books to Consider:

- “The Case for Civility,” by Os Guinness
- “Uncommon Ground,” by Tim Keller & John Inazu
- “The Gathering Storm,” by R. Albert Mohler
- “Confident Pluralism,” by John Inazu
- “We Cannot Be Silent,” by R. Albert Mohler
- “Christ & Culture Revisited,” by D.A. Carson
- “Still Evangelical?” edited by Mark Labberton
- “Canoeing the Mountains,” by Tod Bolsinger
- “True for You But Not for Me,” by Paul Copan
- “Last Call for Liberty,” by Os Guinness
- “The Diversity Delusion,” by Heather Mac Donald

Thinking Christianly: Is Culture a Friend or a Foe?  
Philippians 3:20; | Peter 2:9-12  
Pastor Jay Mosser

## Reminders & Cautions!

This sermon series will address some significant biblical & cultural topics, hopefully in a way that will help us all live more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in a truly diverse world. We will *not* be exhaustive on any single topic. We will *not* address every nuance. We may give more *air time* to an emphasis different from yours. You may disagree on certain topics. Please be nice...and please strive, with those who preach, to be at all times truly biblical. May Christ be honored!

### God’s People Live as “Aliens & Strangers” in the World

I Peter 2:9-13 (also, Hebrews 11:13-16)

- ⇒ See also I Peter 1:1; 2:16; 3:14-17; 4:12-14; 5:10 – all of which emphasize that we are called to live by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s kingdom, keeping an eye on the “finish line” and the glory that awaits.
- ⇒ Implication: We *are* called to be \_\_\_\_\_!
- ⇒ Danger! When God’s people forget this, they become too \_\_\_\_\_ in this world. The gospel urgency and the call to be “salt & light” is lost!

### God’s People Should Be a Redemptive Presence in the World

James 1:2-4, 22, 26-27

- ⇒ Implication: We *are* called to be \_\_\_\_\_! We *are* called to seek human flourishing as an implication of the gospel.
- ⇒ Remember Joseph, Nehemiah, Esther, David, & Daniel – to name a few – who walked in the halls of leadership, sought \_\_\_\_\_, shaped nations & policy & cultures, and maintained biblical integrity. (Jeremiah 29 – “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile”).
- ⇒ Danger! When God’s people forget this, they become part of the \_\_\_\_\_!

### Hearing & Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Sometimes God’s people get stuck on surface issues, like, what movies or other entertainment should I enjoy? That’s not a trivial question, but our relationship to culture goes much deeper than that.
- ⇒ As you interact with culture (things, experiences, values), a) Is my heart being drawn toward Christ or away from Him? (Great Commandment) B) Does this help me live redemptively in this world? (Great Commission)

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

It has been a while since our groups have met! Take time to get acquainted or reacquainted with the others in your group. Catch up on life details. And Group Leaders – now is the time to talk about group commitments & practices.

## Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read John 18:33-38 & I Peter 2:9-13 and review the main points & other key texts from your notes. What was this week's sermon about?
2. Think “both/and” for a moment: In what sense is culture a friend of the Christian and a help to the gospel? And conversely, in what sense is culture a foe of the Christian and a danger to the Christian life? Why is it helpful to remember both of these, and what is the danger of forgetting one or the other?
3. Focus for a moment on the element of living as “strangers & exiles.” In your life, when are you most aware of this emphasis and when do you forget it most easily?
4. Now think about the importance of Christians having a redemptive presence in our fallen world. Is this an “easy emphasis” for you, or do you find it difficult to find practical ways to “live out the gospel”? What things might “redemptive presence” mean for a local church?

## Taking It Further & Taking It Home

5. In the New Testament era, culture was dominated by the Roman Empire, a godless system that emphasized power, violence, conquest, and lust. At the same time, Roman roads facilitated the spread of the gospel, the common Greek language made broad communication possible, and the “Pax Romana” – the Roman peace – though kept in place by an iron fist – ensured a relatively stable environment for the gospel to grow. In short, culture was dominated by an evil and oppressive system, but God used it for the good of the gospel. (Think about it – the Emperor Nero wasn't exactly a boy scout!)

**Question:** How might elements of our culture – though at times used for evil – be redeemed for gospel good?

## Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

“Thinking Christianly: Is Anything TRUE, and If So, Why?”

Romans 1:18-20; Acts 17

Pastor Jay Mosser