

Culture Clash

Understanding the Influence of Culture for More Effective Evangelism

Introduction

Handout 1

- Statement of Purpose -

The intended purpose of this class is to facilitate a discussion of practical apologetics with a focus on recognizing and understanding the negative influence(s) of culture with two primary goals:

1. Resisting the negative influences in our own lives. (Living in the world, but not being of the world)
Romans 12:1-3, 1 Timothy 4, Colossians 2:6-10
2. Understanding the viewpoints and misconceptions of others in a way that allows us to lovingly and more effectively proclaim the gospel. (No matter how lost or confused, everyone you meet was made in God's image.) **2 Corinthians 5:16-20, 2 Timothy 2:22-26, Romans 12:14-21**

- Discussion of Modern American Culture -

- Cultures, subcultures, missions, and evangelism
- Cultural "norms" we participate in without much active thought and examination
- Primary cultural influences in our society

- Apologetics? -

- What is apologetics? **1 Peter 3:15**
- Why should we care?
- How do we make use of it?

- Worldviews (in a nutshell) -

What is a worldview?

world•view

1. The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.
2. A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.

James W. Sire – *The Universe Next Door*

