

ONWARD
 PROPHETIC | LITURGICAL | PASTORAL
 CULTURE AND ARTS

CULTURE
 WEEK 2

Kingdom Culture meeting

Kingdom Culture is a group of 100

churches and ministries that

Kingdom Culture is a group of 100

to reach to culture

Kingdom Culture is a group of 100

Kingdom Culture is a group of 100

Kingdom Culture is a group of 100

Kingdom Culture is a group of 100

So, if you're looking for a culture

How do you engage a culture that

And the culture is going to be

And the culture is going to be

We want to embody and express the culture

And the culture is going to be

And the culture is going to be

We embody and express the culture of the kingdom in the cultures of the world.

1. Be Ourselves

Embody and express the kingdom culture within the church

2. Be Ourselves

By embodying the strangeness of kingdom culture outside the church

Think of the text it leaves us:
 Are we beautiful enough in Christ, that those who still see our strange are drawn to the Gospel through the Kingdom Culture we embody?

★ ONWARD ★

**ENGAGING THE CULTURE
WITHOUT
LOSING THE GOSPEL**

highpointchurch.org/onward ★ Based on the book by Russell Moore



CULTURE



WEEK 2



Kingdom frames everything



A kingdom frame creates a gospel identity



Living a gospel identity together creates a kingdom culture

Kingdom culture, to the surrounding world, is going to be **strange**.

3 words to define:

3 words to define:

- ★ **Kingdom** - God's rule as it is hidden in providence, revealed in Christ the king, and will be realized in heaven.
- ★ **Culture** - What humans collectively lay over creation in their beliefs, practices, institutions and productions. It is a mixture of common grace and the divine image with the flesh and rebellion.
- ★ **World/worldliness** - The collective expression of sin in human culture through the flesh. It is creation and culture captured, twisted and narrowed by sin.

“What in the world was it, that got a hold of you, at such a young age, to know Jesus as your living hope?”

“It was a camp. I saw real Christians make a whole different kind of humanity together. That contrasted to high school was really different. It slowly took hold.”



So, if the kingdom creates a culture
And that culture is strange to the world



**How do you engage a culture that
thinks kingdom culture is weird?**

Answer:



Jesus created a community to be a
kingdom culture: called the Church.



We exist to embody and express the culture of the kingdom in the cultures of the world.



2 ways we must embrace our identity:

1. By being ourselves - embodying and expressing the kingdom culture within the church.

2. By being ourselves in embracing the strangeness of the kingdom culture among the cultures of the world.



"What in the world was it, that got a hold of you, at such a young age, to know Jesus as your living hope?"

"It was a camp. I saw real Christians make a whole different kind of humanity together. That contrasted to high school was really different. It slowly took hold."



1. **By being ourselves** - embodying and expressing the kingdom culture within the church.



2. **By being ourselves** in embracing the strangeness of the kingdom culture among the cultures of the world.

We embody and express the culture of the kingdom in the cultures of the world.

1. Be Ourselves

Embody and express the kingdom culture within the church

1 Peter 2:9-12

Be holy, because you are chosen people, royal priests, holy nations, people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Worldliness is here, not just out there.

Worldliness is here, not just out there. Destructive: Disrespectful, Disagreeable, Disruptive. Protective: Self-Respectful, Self-Responsible, Self-Resistant.

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. We have to become ourselves
2. Our witness is as much in kingdom culture as in personal evangelism
3. Be vigilant about selective worldliness
4. Godliness and integrity are critical to kingdom culture

2. Be Ourselves

By embracing the strangeness of kingdom culture outside the church

Matthew 5:13-16

"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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

"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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. Embrace strange
2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness
3. Kingdom culture fits into real life
4. Engage in minority practices
5. Practice: Connect and contradict
Jesus in Nazareth
Paul in Athens
Augustine to Rome
You now in Madison

Think of the test it leaves us:

1. Be Ourselves

Embody and express the kingdom culture within the church

This isn't just what we are supposed to *live up to*, this is **what you are** in Christ.

Engaging the culture isn't **ANOTHER** thing, it's just being the **REAL** thing.

We cannot engage a worldly culture if we are worldly.

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3
The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. But we have the mind of Christ. Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Worldliness is here, not just out there.

Destructive		Protective
unrighteousness		self-righteousness
released		engaged

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. We have to become ourselves
2. Our witness is as much in kingdom culture as in personal evangelism
3. Be vigilant about selective worldliness
4. Godliness and integrity are critical to kingdom culture



1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

This isn't just what we are supposed to *live up to*,
this is *what you are* in Christ.

Engaging the culture isn't
ANOTHER thing,
it's just being the
REAL thing.

We cannot engage a worldly culture if we are worldly.

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned...But we have the mind of Christ...Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

**Worldliness is here,
not just out there.**

Destructive

unrighteousness
released



Protective

self-righteousness
engaged

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. We have to become ourselves

2. Our witness is as much in

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. We have to become ourselves

2. Our witness is as much in kingdom culture as in personal evangelism

3. Be vigilant about selective

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. We have to become ourselves
2. Our witness is as much in kingdom culture as in personal evangelism
3. Be vigilant about selective worldliness

2. Our witness is as much in kingdom culture as in personal evangelism

3. Be vigilant about selective worldliness

4. Godliness and integrity are critical to kingdom culture

evangelism

3. Be vigilant about selective worldliness

4. Godliness and integrity are critical to kingdom culture

2. Be Ourselves

By embracing the strangeness of kingdom culture outside the church

We will not engage the world as long as we hope for their acceptance.

Luke 6:22-23
Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

Acts 5:41-42
The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-7
Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

Strange isn't an engagement problem. It's an acceptance problem.

G.K. Chesterton:
"A thing may be too good to be believed or too wicked to be believed, but it cannot be too absurd to be believed in the planet of frogs and elephants, of crocodiles and cuttle-fish."



Matthew 5:13-16
"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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16
"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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

"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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. Embrace strange
2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness
3. Kingdom culture fits into real life
4. Engage in minority practices
5. Practice: Connect and contradict

Jesus in Nazareth
Paul in Athens
Augustine to Rome
You now in Madison

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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**We will not engage the world as long as we
hope for their acceptance.**

Luke 6:22-23

Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

Acts 5:41-6:1

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-7

news that Jesus is the Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-7

Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

Strange isn't an engagement problem.
It's an acceptance problem.

G.K. Chesterton:

“A thing may be too sad to be believed or too wicked to be believed or too good to be believed; but it cannot be too absurd to be believed in this planet of frogs and elephants, of crocodiles and cuttle-fish.”



2 Corinthians 2:14-17

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

People don't want "almost" things:

Almost coffee

Almost steak

Kind of your wife

Sort of shoes

Basically a job/promotion

Flight sort of to Paris

(or obviously inconsistent things)

e une curc

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. Embrace strange

2. There is no virtue in non-

te Ute UUUU

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. Embrace strange

2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness

3. Kingdom culture fits into real life

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. Embrace strange

2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness

3. Kingdom culture fits into real life

4. Engage in minority practices

1. Embrace strange
2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness
3. Kingdom culture fits into real life
4. Engage in minority practices
5. Practice: Connect and contradict

Jesus in Nazareth

2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness

3. Kingdom culture fits into real life

4. Engage in minority practices

5. Practice: Connect and contradict

Jesus in Nazareth

Paul in Athens

Augustine to Rome

iii
4. Engage in minority practices

5. Practice: Connect and contradict

Jesus in Nazareth

Paul in Athens

Augustine to Rome

You now in Madison

"What in the world was it, that got a hold of you, at such a young age, to know Jesus as your living hope?"

"It was a camp. I saw real Christians make a whole different kind of humanity together. That contrasted to high school was really different. It slowly took hold."



1. **By being ourselves** - embodying and expressing the kingdom culture within the church.



2. **By being ourselves** in embracing the strangeness of the kingdom culture among the cultures of the world.

We embody and express the culture of the kingdom in the cultures of the world.

1. Be Ourselves

Embody and express the kingdom culture within the church

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT A PLACE OR A TIME. IT IS A PEOPLE.

Be people like Jesus. He is the image of the invisible God, who did not think it was shameful to be equal with God, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And appearing in the likeness of a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, and even death on a cross.

WE DON'T ENGAGE IN A WORLDLY CULTURE AS WE LIVE IN IT. WE LIVE IN IT AS WE ENGAGE IN IT.

Worldliness is here, not just out there.

Destructive: self-interest, self-aggrandizement, self-protection, self-defense, self-preservation, self-interest, self-aggrandizement, self-protection, self-defense, self-preservation.

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. We have to become ourselves
2. Our witness is as much in kingdom culture as in personal evangelism
3. Be vigilant about selective worldliness
4. Godliness and integrity are critical to kingdom culture

2. Be Ourselves

By embracing the strangeness of kingdom culture outside the church

WE DON'T ENGAGE IN A WORLDLY CULTURE AS WE LIVE IN IT. WE LIVE IN IT AS WE ENGAGE IN IT.

WE DON'T ENGAGE IN A WORLDLY CULTURE AS WE LIVE IN IT. WE LIVE IN IT AS WE ENGAGE IN IT.

WE DON'T ENGAGE IN A WORLDLY CULTURE AS WE LIVE IN IT. WE LIVE IN IT AS WE ENGAGE IN IT.

WE DON'T ENGAGE IN A WORLDLY CULTURE AS WE LIVE IN IT. WE LIVE IN IT AS WE ENGAGE IN IT.

WE DON'T ENGAGE IN A WORLDLY CULTURE AS WE LIVE IN IT. WE LIVE IN IT AS WE ENGAGE IN IT.

Matthew 5:13-16

"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. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

So what?

Convictions and actions:

1. Embrace strange
2. There is no virtue in non-kingdom weirdness
3. Kingdom culture fits into real life
4. Engage in minority practices
5. Practice: Connect and contradict
Jesus in Nazareth
Paul in Athens
Augustine to Rome
You now in Madison

Think of the test it leaves us:

Think of the test it leaves us:

Are we beautiful enough in Christ, that those who think we are strange are drawn to the Savior through the kingdom culture we embody?