



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

### July 6, 2024

### Faith and living in today's culture

#### Contact Us

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Suite 16  
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85044  
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#### Links

Email

Website

Facebook

Previous Lessons

Text your prayer requests any time



#### Foster Care Teens

##### Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our

See the sidebar for our new TEXT Prayer Request Line! Simply text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553 anytime, and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

### Sunday

## FAITH + CULTURE

### Faith and living in today's culture

Several weeks ago, we discussed how we can live out our faith in today's culture. We talked about how difficult it can be living out our faith when we are surrounded by faithless people.

We asked if Christians should only have Christian friends, should only participate in Christian events, only watch Christian movies or listen only to Christian music. We asked if we should be avoiding the culture of today and be isolating ourselves from the world.

We said that it wasn't any easier for Jesus, His Disciples, or His followers so we looked at how Jesus dealt with the world's culture of His time.

We noted that Jesus never removed himself from the culture He was in, He was a part of it, He was engaged in it, He was part of the conversation. He met people where they were. He was a friend to whoever needed one. He loved all people, even those who were far from Biblical standards or righteous living. He brought God's truth to the broken corners of the world. But, the most important thing is that when Jesus engaged in His culture, He never left the will of His Father.

Jesus was fully **IN** the world but He never bowed to the pressures **OF** the world because His focus was always on doing what His Father, God, wanted as opposed to

youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

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**This Week's Bible Verse**

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

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what the world wanted. He was always ready to defend His actions with truth.

We said that as we engage with our culture and connect with others through popular music, film, art, sports, and other things, our focus should always stay **100%** on what God wants and be true to God's Word.

In **1 Corinthians**, Paul tells us that part of our mission is to engage in culture for the sake of the Gospel. He says that he does this by becoming like the people he is telling about Jesus. When he is speaking to the Jews, he becomes like a Jew, to those not under the law, he became like those not under the law, to the weak, he became like the weak, etc. He says that he became all things to all people so that he may save some.

We talked about what Paul may have meant by this. Certainly, he was not talking about actually becoming a sinner to be like the sinners. We said that Jesus never became a sinner to save sinners. What He did do was to understand, accept, and to love people wherever they were, and whoever they were, with no judgement or condemnation. In this way, they are more likely to listen to the Good News of the Gospel and to believe in what it has to say. At the same time, He never took His focus off of God and what He wants.

Paul also tells us to be wise in how we deal with "outsiders" (unbelievers) and to make the most of every opportunity.

All through the Book of Acts, we see the Disciples and others engaging with their culture and meeting people where they are so that they can better communicate the Gospel to others and lead them to Salvation.

This was all the exact opposite of what the Pharisees and other religious leaders of the day (and many still even do today) were doing. People are simply not going to listen if all you do is judge them and condemn them for their actions.

Their focus was in appearing to be righteous only with others who also appeared to be righteous while shutting everyone else out in their condemnation of them and actually driving people further away from God instead of bringing others to Him.

Of course, in order to accomplish what Paul is saying, we need to be very strong in our foundation of faith, always keep God's will as our focus, and have others in our close circle of friends who can help support us and

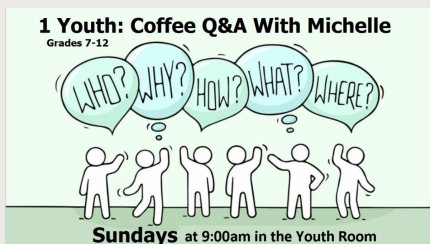
to help keep us accountable.

We warned that when you do engage with the world's culture to expect to be tempted by the ways of the world and to expect to be challenged by others to defend your belief.

We can be better prepared for both of these by studying God's Word and by always following the guidance of The Holy Spirit.

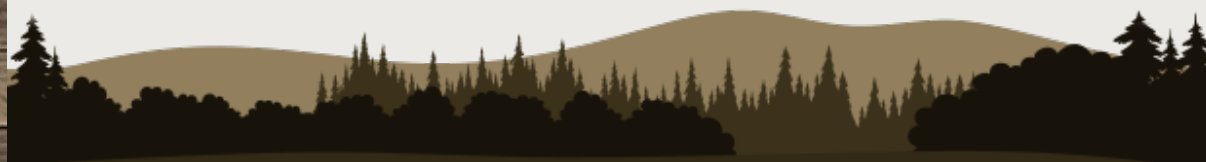
We are told in **1 Peter** to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." and to do it with **gentleness and respect**.

We should share the Gospel to all who will receive it, not only with our words, but even more so by our actions, with understanding, acceptance, and with Love.



## Pre-Service Coffee Q&A Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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