

CULTURE IS_

BUILDING A LIFE THAT LASTS

How the Gospel Changes How We Live

SUMMARY:

During this series, we will be discussing what culture is and the type of culture we want to embody as Christ-followers. Culture is the behaviors of individuals within a family, organization, or church that create accountability and momentum. These Gospel-driven, Holy Spirit-empowered behaviors cultivate unity and empower the vision of the family, organization, or church to flourish individually and collectively. Cultural behaviors are not only good for the family, organization, or church. These behaviors also make the individuals in the organization good.

The final two culture traits we are looking at are “Resolve Conflict” and “Excellence.” When these two culture traits come together, we can see how the Gospel changes how we live. We can resolve conflict with excellence by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can live in unity. This is a reflection of God’s love and forgiveness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Pastor Derwin shared the following quote at the top of his sermon, “When conflict is not productive or healthy, it can be harmful to everyone involved. Sustained, unresolved conflict can create tension at home or at work, can erode the strength and satisfaction of relationships, and can even make people feel physically sick or in pain.” – Elizabeth Scott, PhD. When have you had an experience with unresolved conflict? Did you experience some of the negative side effects Dr. Scott describes?

Read Colossians 3:12.

- What do we “put on” before engaging in conflict?
- Why is it important to enter into conflict resolution with compassion, kindness, and patience?

Read Romans 2:4.

- How does God’s kindness change the way we engage with others? Why?

Read Philippians 2:6-8.

- In what ways did Jesus display humility?
- How does the humility of Jesus inspire humility in you?

Read Colossians 3:13.

- What is the reason for our forgiveness towards others?
- In what ways is the act of forgiveness freeing for the person who is granting it?

Read Colossians 3:14-16.

- How does one “put on love”? Who do you know that leads with love and what actions or behaviors do they display that show love?
- Pastor Derwin encouraged us to preserve unity. What is the difference between unity and uniformity? Why is it that we strive for unity and not uniformity?

Read Colossians 3:17.

- This verse encourages us to do “everything” in the name of the Lord Jesus. What one activity can you commit to the Lord this week that maybe you haven’t in the past?
- Is there someone who you have been avoiding due to a fear of conflict? How can you approach that person with love and compassion?

SOUL TATTOO: Resolve conflict in the power of the gospel.

ACTION STEP: Go resolve conflict!