

Summer Community Fellowship
“Live Not By Lies: Living as a Christian Dissident in a Hostile Time”
Edgemont Bible Church, Summer 2022
“The Ideal Culture”

Culture - 1a: the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group *also:* the characteristic features of everyday existence (such as diversions or a way of life) shared by people in a place or time *popular culture Southern culture*
b: the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization *a corporate culture focused on the bottom line*
c: the set of values, conventions, or social practices associated with a particular field, activity, or societal characteristic *studying the effect of computers on print culture Changing the culture of materialism will take time ...— Peggy O'Mara*
d: the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations

Community – 1 a unified body of individuals: such as **a: the people with common interests living in a particular area** *broadly:* the area itself *the problems of a large community*
b: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society *a community of retired persons a monastic community* **c:** a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society *the academic community the scientific community* **d:** a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests *the international community* **e:** a group linked by a common policy **f:** an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (such as species) in a common location
2a: a social state or condition *The school encourages a sense of community in its students.* **b:** joint ownership or participation *community of goods* **c:** common character: **LIKENESS** *community of interests* **d:** social activity: **FELLOWSHIP**
3: society at large *the interests of the community*

I. In the Spiritual Realm, there are two possible cultures – Jo 8:23; 18:36; Mt 7:24-27

A. The World

1. Description

a. Temporary

i. End of the world – Mt 13:39-40,49

ii. this present world (the culture and present state) will and is passing away – 2 Co 4:18; 1 Jo 2:17

b. Physical – mostly based on and deals with the five senses – Ro 8:24; 2 Co 5:1, 7

2. Authority - Satan

a. the prince and power of the air – Jo 14:30; 16:11; Eph 2:1-3

b. had the power of death – Heb 2:14

3. Means by which Satan Works in the World

- a. Propaganda and lies with some truth working on reason based on emotion or desire
 - i. Cares of this world - Mt 13:22
 - ii. Lusts of flesh, eyes, pride of life – 1 Jo 2:15-17
- b. The non-physical, unseen (Demons) working through the physical on the physical and emotional – 2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:11-12

4. It's Mission

B. The Kingdom of God

1. Description

- a. Eternal - 2Co 4:18
- b. Spiritual – operates in the realm of the Spirit – Ro 7:14; 1 Co 2:13,15; 10:3-4; 12-14
- c. Seen and yet Unseen – Ro 8:24-25; 2 Co 4:18; 5:7; Heb 11:1

2. Authority – Christ – Mt 29:18-20

3. Means of Working in the World

- a. Truth working on reason with love – 2 Co 4:2; Eph 4:15
- b. Through the testimony of believers – Mt 6:33; Jo 15:1-8; Acts 1:8; Col 4:6; 2Ti 2:25; 1 Pet 3:15

4. It's Mission – Mt 28:19-20; Ac 1:8

II. The Foundation for the Ideal Culture

A. The Shared Attitude of the Members of the Kingdom of God - The Beatitudes – Mt 5:3-9

- 1. Humility - Recognition of unworthiness and inability – 3-4
- 2. A Changed Character – vs 5-9
 - a. Meekness – Power under control
 - b. Hunger and thirst for righteousness
 - c. Merciful
 - d. Holiness
 - e. Peacemakers

B. The Shared Values and Goals of the Members of the Kingdom of God

1. Whose approval do you seek?

- a. The World's – Demas - 2 Ti 4:10; 1 Jo 2:15, 19
- b. God's – 2 Co 5:9-10

2. A Changed Association – vs 10-11 – members of the world? – Jo 15:18-19; 16:33; 17:14-16; 2 Ti 3:12; 1Pe 2:12; 3:16; 4:14

3. A Changed reward – vs 12

- a. Rewards for living to the Glory of God – Ro 2:6; 1 Co 3:10-15; Eph 6:8; Rev 22:12
- b. An Eternal Inheritance – Eph 1:11,14; Col 1:12; 3:24; Heb 9:15; 1 Pe 1:4
- c. Ruling and Reigning with Christ – 2 Ti 2:12; Rev 5:10; 20:6; 22:5

C. The Shared Practices of the Members of the Kingdom of God

1. New Position and Practice – 5:13-16

- a. Salt of the earth - that which influences - preserves – vs 13
- b. Light of the earth - Shine to be seen – vs 14-16

2. Watch the Heart – vs 21-30

3. Speak Truth – vs 33-37
4. Do more than is expected – vs 38-48
 - a. In action – 38-42
 - b. In attitude – vs 43-48
5. Religious Activities – Mt 6:1-34
 - a. Giving – vs 1-4
 - b. Praying – vs 5-13
 - c. Forgiving – vs 14-15
 - d. Fasting – vs 16-18; Isa 58:3-14
6. Spiritual Investing – vs 19-24
7. Don't Worry, Be Happy (Trust God) – vs 25-34
8. Discern with Humility – Mt 7:1-6
9. A Relationship with God is a Constant – Mt 7:7-12
 - a. Ask, Search, Knock – vs 7-8
 - b. Example of how you care for yours and He cares for you – vs 9-11
 - c. Living and Fulfilling God's Life – vs 12
10. Stick to the Truth – vs 13-23
 - a. Only the few – vs 13-14
 - b. Beware of False teachers – vs 15-20
 - c. Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" – vs 21-23