





Therefore . . .

- Not essential, genetic, or inherent
- Must be taught (generally speaking)

Who does the Teaching?

- Deuteronomy 6:7 And **thou shalt teach** them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
- Deuteronomy 20:18 That **they teach you** not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.

Where did the teaching come from?

- John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.
- 1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Definition

- Culture is the totality of the learned, **shared norms** of thought and behavior that express the values of a group of people.



Therefore . . .

- It is based on patterns, habits, models, standards, and values of a group.

- Why is this thought or behavior expected?
- Is culture's expectation biblical?

- Leviticus 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:
- Deuteronomy 17:14 When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

Definition

- Culture is the totality of the learned, shared norms of **thought and behavior** that express the values of a group of people.

Therefore . . .

- It is intangible, though it is often expressed in tangible objects.



Are these tangible?

- 1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

ANSWERING THE FOUNDATIONAL QUESTION: WHEN IS A CULTURE BAD?

When it offers an alternative cause & purpose for this world

- 1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.
- John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

When it offers an alternative cause & purpose for this world

- Ephesians 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

When it offers an alternative community

- Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

When it offers an alternative value system

Positive Values

- Culture may protect or advocate moral purity.
- Culture may protect or advocate truth.
- Culture may protect or advocate justice.
- Culture may protect or advocate order.
- Culture may protect or advocate compassion.
- Culture may protect or advocate meaningful relationships.

Negative “Values”

- Culture may threaten health and life.
- Culture may threaten truth.
- Culture may threaten other cultures that are themselves righteous.
- Culture may encourage an unthinking response.

Negative “Values”

- Culture may coerce its members to conform to unbiblical standards.
 - Cultures exert pressure to keep the norm, and they exert correction and coercion as judgment for failure to keep that norm.
 - Cultures exert pressure to unite, to cohere, to commit to the group—to conform, and they exert ostracism and disdain as judgment for failure to conform.

APPLICATION

Know Scripture.

Be willing to apply principles.

- Avoid an aspect of culture that detracts from your conformity to Christ. (Rom. 8:29)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that applauds what is foul and base. (Phil. 4:8)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that encourages discontentment. (Phil. 4:11)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that exercises domination over the person. (1 Cor. 6:12)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that offers a false view of reality. (1 Thess. 5:21)

Be willing to apply principles.

- Avoid an aspect of culture that encourages laziness. (Rom. 12:11)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that distracts from scriptural and sensible priorities. (Heb. 5:11-14)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that defiles you morally. (Heb. 12:14)
- Avoid an aspect of culture that encourages unhealthy relationships. (Rom. 14:19)

Application requires separation.

- Isaiah 52:11 Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.
- 2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

