

Influencing Culture

*How the Cultural Mandate Empowers the Great Commission
(And How it Can Make an Immediate Different in Your Sphere of Influence)*

A Small Group Series

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Study Guide: Week Four

Cultural Influence Means Being an Ambassador

Group Response

Questions for Discussion

1. What is your impression of what an ambassador does? Have you ever had to be an ambassador for your company, your product, your city, etc? What were the boundaries? What was the experience like?
2. How is being an ambassador for Christ similar to a political ambassadorship? How is it different?
3. Paul makes a surprising statement in 2 Corinthians 5:20: He says, “We beg you to be reconciled to God” [NAS]. Begging generally has a negative connotation in our culture. The Greek word (deomai) also can mean to “implore, urgently plead, strongly request,” etc. The idea conveys urgency.
 - How can we convey urgency in ways that seem culturally appropriate?
 - What role does friendship play in your ability to urgently plead with someone?
4. What is the word of reconciliation (v. 18, 19)? What does it mean that God has “committed” it to us?
5. Paul’s point in 2 Corinthians 5:15-17 is that ambassadors should never evaluate anyone according to the flesh. Of course, this is a very natural thing to do. Have there been times that you’ve evaluated people’s worth and value according to the flesh? Is there a class of people where you are especially prone to do this?
 - How, according to verses 15 and 17, can we think differently so that we stop doing this?
6. What exactly does it mean to be a new creation?
7. Paul says that our two-fold motive for being an ambassador should be love and fear (vs. 11-14)).
 - Whose love is it that controls us? How do we get to the place where His love for others truly does control us?
 - The fear he speaks of us connected with the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10). If we know we’ll give an account to Jesus after our death, how does that change our thoughts about expressing the reality of Jesus in the present?

Memory Verse – 2 Corinthians 5:15

“He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (5:15).

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ. As though God were making an appeal through us, we beg you on behalf of Christ -- be reconciled to God” (5:20).

Next week

We will examine ways that we can take the unchangeable truth of the good news and speak it into cultures that are extremely diverse.

Reading that will challenge you in the area of culture

Ron Hall and Denver Moore – Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound them Together

Read pages 161-195