

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

By Rod MacIvaine

Study Guide: Week Five

Communicating the Gospel into Different Cultures

Group Response

Questions for Discussion

1. Take a look at 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. In your own words, what would you say is the essence of the gospel message?
2. Probing more deeply, what would you say a person has to believe in order to establish a personal relationship with Christ and receive the gift of eternal life?
 - John 5:24 and Romans 5:8 are also helpful passages to consider in answering this question.
3. Paul wants to make sure we realize that the gospel isn't just for 1st century Jews, but for the whole world. How does he emphasize this in verses 10-11?
4. When Jesus shares the gospel in Jerusalem, the religious capitol of the world, he does it in a way that is particularly appropriate for Nicodemus.
 - How does Jesus use what Nicodemus already knows as he shares the gospel?
 - What can we learn from this about sharing our faith with religious non-Christians?
5. When Jesus shares the gospel in Athens, he uses a very different method than in Jerusalem.
 - How does Paul show appreciation for their culture?
 - When exactly does Paul get to the gospel message in Acts 17?
 - When exactly does he confront Nicodemus about his spiritual need in John 3?
 - What can we learn from this about sharing our faith with secular non-Christians?
6. When we share the gospel, we need to remember that there is one universal message that is absolutely true for all cultures and all times, but the content of the message must be understandable to different cultures.
 - What are the diverse cultures in our city?
 - How might we share the gospel differently so that people can understand it?

Memory Verse – Acts 17:26-28

²⁶and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

²⁷that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

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