



Life Group Work Sheet

Culture

November 17, 2013

Getting to Know Each Other

1. Today was the last sermon in the Fingerprint series. How has this series helped you understand who we are as a church? How has it challenged you?

Into the Bible

Read John 17:15-19.

2. What does Jesus' prayer here tell us about the role of Christians in culture? How do Jesus' words prepare us to engage culture?

Receive. Reject. Redeem.

As Christians, critical thinking is essential for engaging our culture and world. While attempting to classify different parts of our culture, it is helpful for us to place aspects of our culture in one of three categories: receive, reject, or redeem.

3. When we say "**receive**," we refer to those things that are a part of God's common grace revealed in culture. Write down one or two examples that would fit this category.
4. When we say "**reject**," we refer to those things that are a part of culture that are sinful and not beneficial. Write down one or two examples that would fit this category.
5. When we say "**redeem**," we refer to those things that are a part of culture that are not bad in and of themselves, but can be used either wickedly or positively. Write down one or two examples that would fit this category.

Look at the following issues of culture and identify which classification we should put them in. As you are discussing these in your Life Groups, ask the following questions for each different area:

Is this a part of culture that Christians can/must receive, reject, or redeem?

What is your reasoning for your position?

Is it possible for believing Christians to have a different position? Think of the reasons someone would have for the other two categories.

Moving forward, how does your conclusion play out in your everyday life?

1. **CHRISTMAS.** While no believing Christian would say that Santa is the main part of Christmas, Christian approaches to Santa certainly vary. Santa isn't going away anytime soon as a part of our culture. How should Christians respond?
2. **SEX.** Christian perspectives on sex and sexual pleasure certainly vary as well. Our culture is one of the most sexually charged cultures in history. How should Christians respond to this emphasis on sex and pleasure in culture?
3. **MUSIC AND MOVIES.** Music is a gift from God, but it is often used by secular musicians to speak of sex, idolatry, debauchery, pride, and a number of other vices. How do Christians respond to this emphasis in music? The same is true for television and movies. How do Christians respond to movies filled with vulgarity, sex, drugs, and violence? Should we only listen to Christian music and only watch Christian movies?
4. **COMFORT AND SECURITY.** A quick survey of television commercials and advertisements in newspapers will tell you that our culture highly values being comfortable and secure, more than most cultures in the world. Should this emphasis on comfort and security be a part of our church's culture? How should Christians respond?