

1 February 2015

RPC Christian Education Series: Christ and Culture

Week 4: Communicating with our Culture, Part 1

Intro and Review

What are the challenges of trying to find a single paradigm for how Christians “should” relate to our culture?

I. Communication with our culture begins with knowing our audience

A. The progression toward postmodernism and deconstructionism

“There are no facts, only interpretations.”—Friedrich Nietzsche

“I don't know if we each have a destiny, or if we're all just floatin' around accidental-like on a breeze. But I, I think maybe it's both, maybe both happening at the same time.”—Forrest Gump.

B. Postmodernism is like a grab-bag of styles, ideals and cultures

C. The need for transcendence

“Amongst the available doctrines of salvation, nothing can compete with Christianity—provided, that is, that you are a believer.”—Luc Ferry, A Brief History of Thought.

II. How to communicate the unchanging story of the gospel in a postmodern culture

A. Build bridges and find common ground

Read **Acts 17:22-34**

B. Model respectful attitudes and respect for authority

Read **2 Peter 2:13-18, 21-23**; see **Acts 19**

C. Pursue relationships and practice hospitality

Read **Romans 12:9-13**

III. Application and homework

Consider the following “sound bites” you may hear concerning some of the issues in our cultural landscape. For each one, try to write down no fewer than six non-threatening questions you could ask as you converse.

A. It’s not rational to believe in God. There is no proof that God exists.

B. Christians are always trying to force their views on other people. You can’t legislate morality. Christians who are involved in politics violate the separation of church and state.

C. Christians twist the Bible all the time to support their hatred of gay people.