

**Christ & Culture (2 of 7)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, September 18th, 2022**



**Series Focus:** As followers of Jesus, we are called to embrace his teachings and example, proclaim the truth of the gospel, and engage the world around us by embodying the good news. What does that look like today? As we read the Bible, we can see that it takes a mixed view of all human cultures. While many elements of culture can be affirmed, we must avoid uncritically accepting aspects of culture without first examining them in light of Christ and the gospel. Therefore, we must learn to contextualize the gospel and use cultural discernment as we live in the world as faithful disciples. In this 7-part sermon series—*Christ & Culture*—disciples of Jesus are invited to apply the gospel to every area of life as we seek to follow him in a fallen world.

**Sermon Title:** For the Good of the City

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 1:26-28; Jeremiah 29:4-7; Philippians 3:17-21

**Sermon Focus:** We were created to be God’s image-bearers and culture-makers. We can see from the very beginning that God wants us to make things and make meaning that reflects his glory in the world and leads to human flourishing. Therefore, he wants us to partner with him in bringing more of the Kingdom to earth through our work and influence, right where we live. In the second message of our series, Pastor David shares how disciples of Jesus are called to seek the good of the city as citizens of heaven.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Genesis 1:24-31 together. The Bible tells us that we were created in God's "image" to be caretakers and stewards of the earth. Notice, God gave Adam and Eve a "garden" that needed to be cultivated. They also named the animals and plants. In other words, they made stuff and gave it meaning (culture). Have you ever considered how God wants us to create culture that reflects his glory?
2. Read Genesis 11:1-8 together. Pastor David told us that the tower was built for the gods to come down and bless their city and civilization. It was a way of saying, "God bless Babylon" instead of "Babylon bless God." Why is it unwise for a city (or a country) to disregard God's designs for creation and then ask or expect God to bless them? Where should the church be in all of this today?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7 together. Discuss the following two questions as it relates to Jeremiah's letter to the exiles in Babylon.
  - Most of the Old Testament does not speak favorably of cities (e.g., Ur, Sodom and Gomorrah, Babylon, Nineveh, etc.). Why is that? This changes with the founding of Jerusalem, a city for God. However, that city fails to fulfill its purpose. What do you see were the reasons for that?
  - After the Babylonian exile and into the New Testament, we see that God's people should view themselves as aliens and strangers on the earth (Hebrews 11:13-16; Philippians 3:17-21). As we observe in the book of Acts, there is not a call to establish *one* godly city, but to establish churches (a local expression of Christ) in every center of human culture. We are to seek the *peace and prosperity* of the city in which we live. How do you see the Church doing that in our area? How can we do better?
4. Read Matthew 5:13-16 together. How do you see that God has called you to be salt and light to your family, neighbors, and enemies? How is Grantham Church being salt and light to our community? Is there more we should be doing?
5. Where are the main centers of culture and places of influence where we live in the greater Harrisburg area? How can we pray for these hubs of culture and engage with them as disciples of Jesus? After some discussion, please take some time to pray for the people and places involved in shaping culture.