

Age of Opportunity

Lesson 10

BIG IDEA: We must teach our teens how to

INTERACT with culture **REDEMPATIVELY**.

RHETORICAL QUESTION: *In what ways is your teen being influenced by culture and how do you respond to that influence biblically?*

- One of the essential skills our teens must develop is **CULTURAL AWARENESS** - “an understanding of the way the spiritual **STRUGGLE** is played out in the **CULTURE** in which we live.” (Tripp, pg. 141)
 1. Culture is made of the **RELATIONSHIPS**, **CUSTOMS**, institutions, structures, **MEDIA**, products and **BELIEFS** that make up the nature of our existence.
 2. Culture is “the set of **COMMON** attitudes, values, goals, and practices that **CHARACTERIZE** an institution, organization, or group.” (Wikipedia)
- Two typical responses to culture – isolation or assimilation.
 1. The basic philosophy of isolation is “**EVIL** is in the thing ... so **AVOID** the thing.”
 2. The basic philosophy of assimilation is “Things are **NEUTRAL** ... there’s no harm in **PARTICIPATING** in the thing.”

What’s wrong/right about each response?
 3. “The struggle with culture is **INESCAPABLE** and it is always **MORAL**.” (Tripp, pg. 147)
- Understanding the influence of culture will help our teens live **WISELY**, **ALERTLY**, and **REDEMPATIVELY**.

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|---|
| C | Relativism | A. Goal is experiencing pleasure and no recognition of spiritual world |
| F | Individualism | B. No higher authority than self or no responsibility to a higher authority |
| E | Emotionalism | C. Each person determines what is right/wrong for them |
| A | Materialism | D. No sense of personal responsibility; “I am my experiences” |
| B | Autonomy | E. Feelings the most influential, most important indicator of right/wrong |
| D | Victimism | F. No higher goal than my own happiness and pleasure |

Responding to Culture: A Plan for Our Teenagers

- Matthew 5:13-16 ... “assimilators” lose their **SALT**, and “isolators” hide their **LIGHT**.
- **Five strategies** for preparing our teens to interact redemptively with the culture around them:
 1. Instill in our teenagers a biblical **WORLD VIEW** of life through consistent exposure to biblical **TRUTH**.

Besides the church ministries or Christian school, what are other ways to expose our teens to biblical truth?
 2. **CRITIQUE** and **EVALUATE** the surrounding culture from a biblical perspective, not personal taste.
 3. **IDENTIFY** with the culture, but only agree with its interpretations and **RESPONSES** if they agree with Scripture.
 4. Allow teens to be participants in the **DECISION-MAKING** process as they display more and more **MATURITY**.
 5. Encourage our teens to be **BOLD** witnesses to biblical truth and **FEARLESS** voices of righteousness.