

Engaging Culture with the Character of God

9 AM Bible Study, Jan – Mar 2024

Class Purpose Statement:

This class aims to equip people to consistently interpret culture through the lens of God's character so they can be ambassadors for God, influencing those around them with God's heart.

Week 1: Why Engage Culture at all?

1. Class Intro & Information

a. Intro/format/ expectations

b. Read the passage assigned to your table and then develop a list of characteristics and/or uses of the element (salt or light) Jesus references in that scripture. You can use this space for notes from your discussion and ideas from other tables.

- i. Passages: [Matthew 5:13-16](#), [Luke 14:34-35](#), [Philippians 2:14-16](#), [Mark 9:50](#), [Mark 4:21](#); [Luke 8:16-18](#)
- ii. Characteristics of SALT

iii. Characteristics of LIGHT

2. Understanding

a. Characteristic of God: He is present and actively engaged.

b. Command from God (to followers): His church should be the same (salt & light).

3. Application

Our goal is to understand the character of God so we can:

- a. Authentically reflect it to the people around us
- b. Introduce people to it so they may consider His principles and alternatives
- c. We will **apply** God's character to a controversial cultural topic to learn more about His character and communicate the view He takes regarding the topic and why.
- d. Our premise is that God always has a better alternative to whatever culture wants to pursue. What He invites us into is of far greater value (now & eternally) than any of the 'cunning and craftiness of <culture> in their deceitful scheming'.

4. Assignment

- a. Each week, you will receive scriptures to read.
- b. After reading them, make observations about God's Character. Write them down on the current week's sheet & bring them the following week. (Build a library)
- c. ***After making your own observations***, feel free to consult other resources (Study notes, commentaries, etc) to deepen your understanding of God's character.
- d. **Homework: Read [Romans 1](#), [Romans 2:12–15](#) and [Ephesians 4:20–24](#)**
What do you observe about God's Character in these passages?