

# CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE CAN MAKE A CULTURAL DIFFERENCE

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## Current Cultural Influences

Anti-Biblical influences are steadily and stealthily invading our current culture resulting in theological, societal and moral decline.

> *Postmodernism* rejects the authoritative truth of the Scriptures and espouses tolerance without Biblical appraisal.

> *Humanism* offers a morality based on promoting the well being of mankind through human effort and not by God or any religious system.

> *Pragmatism* replaces “Is it right?” with “Does it work?”

> *Individualism* focuses on independence and a self-centered “I owe it to myself” mentality.

> *Pluralism* espouses a world view of multiple avenues for spiritual achievement.

> *Relativism* deems one’s personal point view or life circumstances as the gauge for determining what is right.

> *Materialism* shifts life goals away from benefitting others to the selfish accumulation of material wealth

> *Hedonism* encourages pleasure seeking in a whirlwind of “eat, drink and be merry”.

## Worldly Influence Made a Difference

A diffuse assortment of subcultures, each blowing its own horn, produced a symphony of discordant societal noise. The legalization of abortion and same-sex marriage, coupled with transgender issues, relationships vs. marriage and the proliferation of pornography, reflect a dramatic shift from previous Judeo-Christian values. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, once remarked to a reporter: “*Christians must adapt to the changed cultural circumstances by finding a way to live faithfully in a world in which Christians are going to be a moral exception.*” Such adaptation, however, should not include silent acceptance. Christians have a mandate from Christ to personally share the Word. They should make a conscious effort to make a cultural difference by verbally sharing the Gospel.

## Christian Influence Can Make a Difference

History has shown that the Church often thrived when in sharp contrast to the cultures surrounding it. Christians in the early Church were a minority in a hostile, pagan Roman culture. They lived in a society saturated with sin. Yet they did not sit

back in silent acceptance. They possessed a new life in Christ, “*the Way*”, (a title frequently used for Christ: Acts 9:2; 19:9 & 23; 22:4; 24:14 & 22). They eagerly proclaimed Him as their Way to truth and life. (John 14:6) For this, they were not only ridiculed, but sought out for torture and death. However, despite the hostility, the rapid spread of Christianity was truly remarkable. They made a cultural difference by personally sharing the Gospel, fortified with a friendly, kind, helpful, loving lifestyle. Today we live in a “democracy”, a word derived from the Greek, “*demokratia*”, meaning “people rule”. Majority rule calls the shots. If the majority is composed of cultural decadents, immoral decisions will be made. There’s a Slovak proverb which says: “*God gives people the kind of government they deserve ... good rulers if they’re good ... bad rulers if they’re bad, under whom they will suffer.*” Christian influence can make a cultural difference. You can help turn our lopsided, upside down, decadent culture right side up by letting the power of the Holy Spirit’s Word flow through you to others.

## The Easter Message

The resurrection of Christ proves that Christ is the Son of God, that His teachings are true, that his redemption is sure and that eternal life in Him is certain. Should an antagonistic agnostic or atheist ask what would make you give up your

faith, simply reply: “The bones of Jesus.” Paul L. Maier in his novel, “A Skeleton in God’s Closet”, depicts an archeological find of the bones of Jesus and the resultant chaotic havoc in the Christian world. The find is ultimately found to be a hoax. Jesus took His bones to heaven. Remind the unbelieving that if



Jesus never rose, Christianity would have died with Him on Good Friday. Arm yourself with St. Paul’s resurrection proclamation in I Cor. 15.

## RELATED RESOURCES

[www.selc.lcms.org](http://www.selc.lcms.org) - Personal Stewardship

“*Current Cultural Isms*”

“*Christian Caretakers of Culture*”