



*How Should Christians Relate to Culture and Society?
Part 3 – Engage, Set Apart or Withdraw*



The Road Map:

- Week 1: Open Discussion – Should Christians Be Involved in:
- protests over the building of an Islamic center?
 - the efforts for or against same-sex marriage?
- Week 2: Civic Religion – Confusing God & Country



The Road Map:

Week 1:

Open Discussion – Should Christians Be Involved in:

- protests over the building of an Islamic center?



gay marriage?

Week 2:



The Road Map:

Week 1: Open Discussion – Should Christians Be Involved in:

of an Islamic center?
same-sex marriage?

Week 2: Civi

country





The Road Map:

Week 1: Open Discussion – Should Christians Be Involved in:

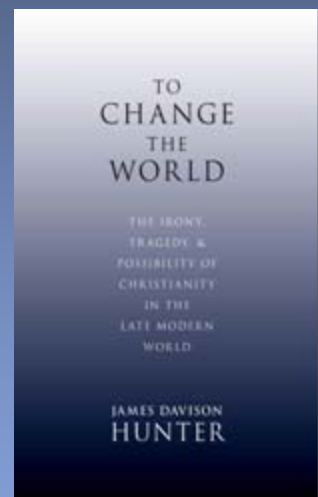
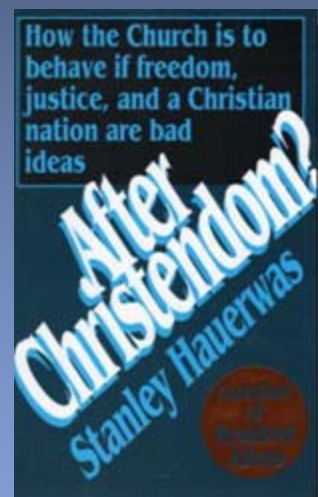
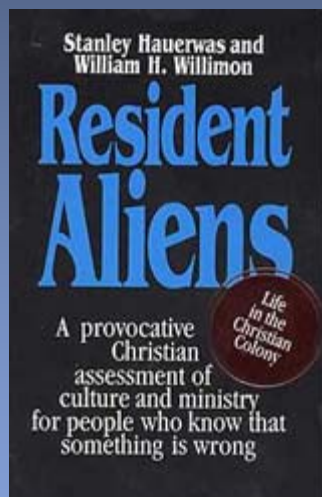
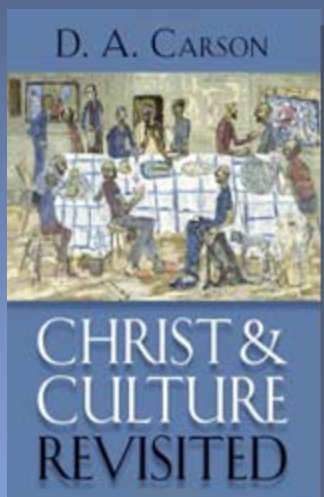
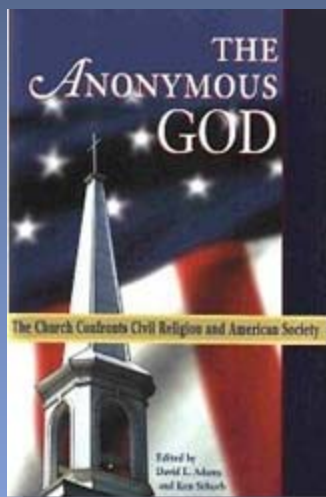
- protests over the building of an Islamic center?
- the efforts for or against same-sex marriage?

Week 2: Civic Religion – Confusing God & Country

TONIGHT: How Do Christians Relate to Culture & Society?



Read Along:





How Do We Relate?

H. Richard Niebuhr: *Christ and Culture* (1951):

- *Christ Against Culture* (Exclusivist)
- *Christ of Culture* (Cultural Christian)
- *Christ Above Culture* (Synthesist)
- *Christ and Culture in Paradox* (Dualist)
- *Christ Transforming Culture* (Conversionist)



How Do We Relate?

Should Christians "be set apart" from the rest of culture and society?



How Do We Relate?

withdraw

Should Christians "~~be set apart~~" from the rest of culture and society?

(verses actively engage and seek to transform culture)



How Do We Relate?

*Should Christians "be set apart" from the rest of culture and society?
(verses actively engage and seek to transform culture)*

PROS

CONS



How Do We Relate?

Should Christians "be set apart" from the rest of culture and society?

John Howard Yoder:

- ◆ Church and State often support one another's goals.
- ◆ But Jesus rejected this temptation, even to death.
- ◆ Christians should also avoid this temptation.
- ◆ Christians should not impose their convictions and values on those who do not share their beliefs.
- ◆ Christians should "be the church," living as a witness to Christ in an alternative to society, refusing to return evil for evil, living pacifist lifestyles, sharing material possession, and giving freely in charity.



How Do We Relate?

Should Christians “be set apart” from the rest of culture and society?

“I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. ‘Expel the wicked man from among you.’”

1 Corinthians 5:9-13



How Do We Relate?

Should Christians “be set apart” from the rest of culture and society?

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

1 Peter 2:9-12



How Do We Relate?

Should Christians "be set apart" from the rest of culture and society?

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16



How Do We Relate?

Should Christians "be set apart" from the rest of culture and society?

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16



How Do We Relate?

Can Christians “be set apart” from the rest of culture and society?



How Do We Relate?

Does culture shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of Christians?



How Do We Relate?

Does culture shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of Christians?

American



Christian



How Do We Relate?

Does culture shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of Christians?

American



Ideological



Political



Christian



How Do We Relate?

Does culture shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of Christians?

American



Conservative



Republican



Christian



How Do We Relate?

Does culture shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of Christians?

American



Liberal



Democrat



Christian



How Do We Relate?

*Is culture “withdrawing” from Christianity? Is secularization inevitable?
Have Christians contributed to secularization?*

Secular –

“not overtly or specifically religious”

Secularization –

“the process of removing religion from the public arena and reducing it to the private realm.”



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