



*How Should Christians Relate to Culture and Society?
Part 4 – Can Christians Change Culture?*



The Road Map:

Week 1: Should Christians Be Involved?

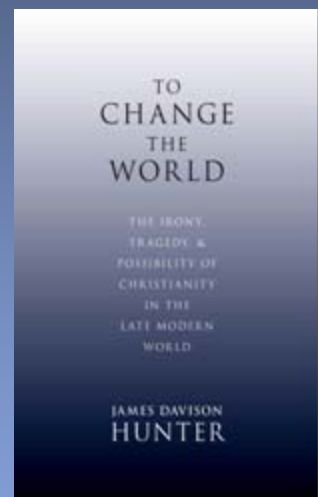
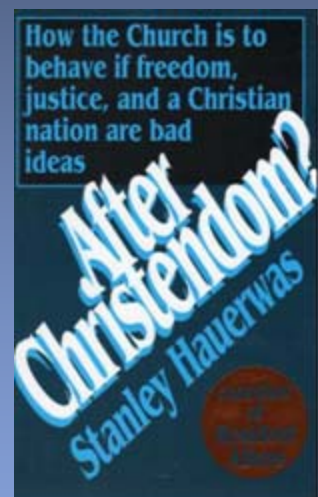
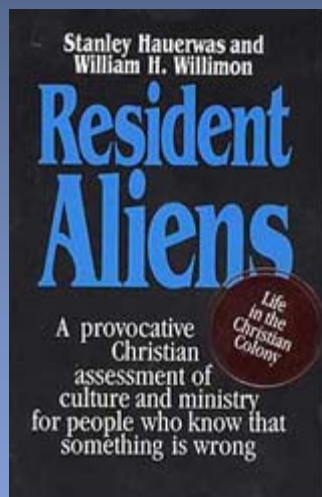
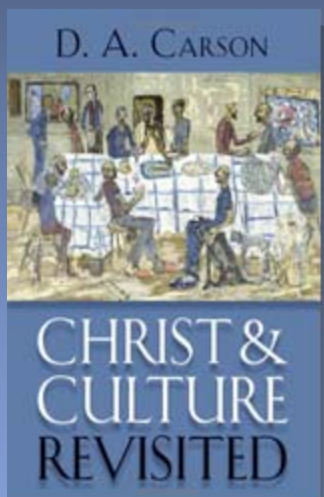
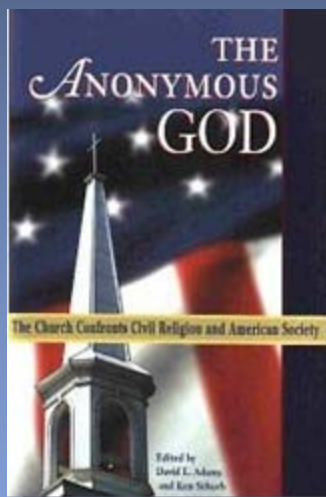
Week 2: Avoiding the Trap of Civic Religion

Week 3: Should Christians Withdraw or Set Themselves Apart?

TONIGHT: Can Christians Change Culture or Society?

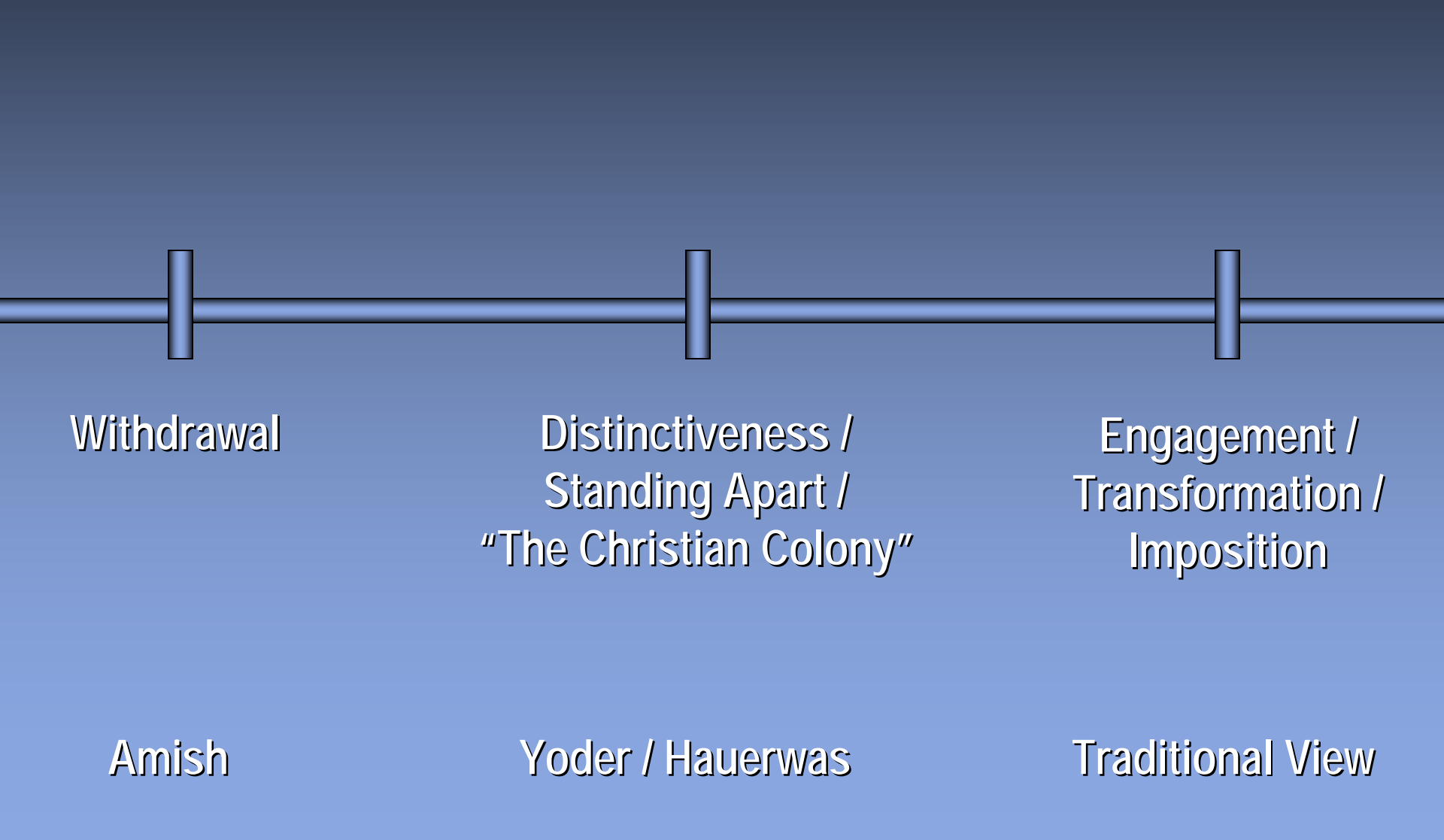


Read Along:





Last Week:





Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

The Traditional View or Common View:

We can change culture if we change the hearts and minds of individuals. Great ideas – worldviews – form our values and move us to act.

We redeem culture from the inside out . . . from the individual to the family to the community and then outwardly to the society at large.



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Do Christians today have the means to change culture and society?



Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

The Traditional View or Common View:

Redeeming the Culture

Advancing the Kingdom

Building the Kingdom

Transforming the World

Reclaiming Culture

Reforming Culture

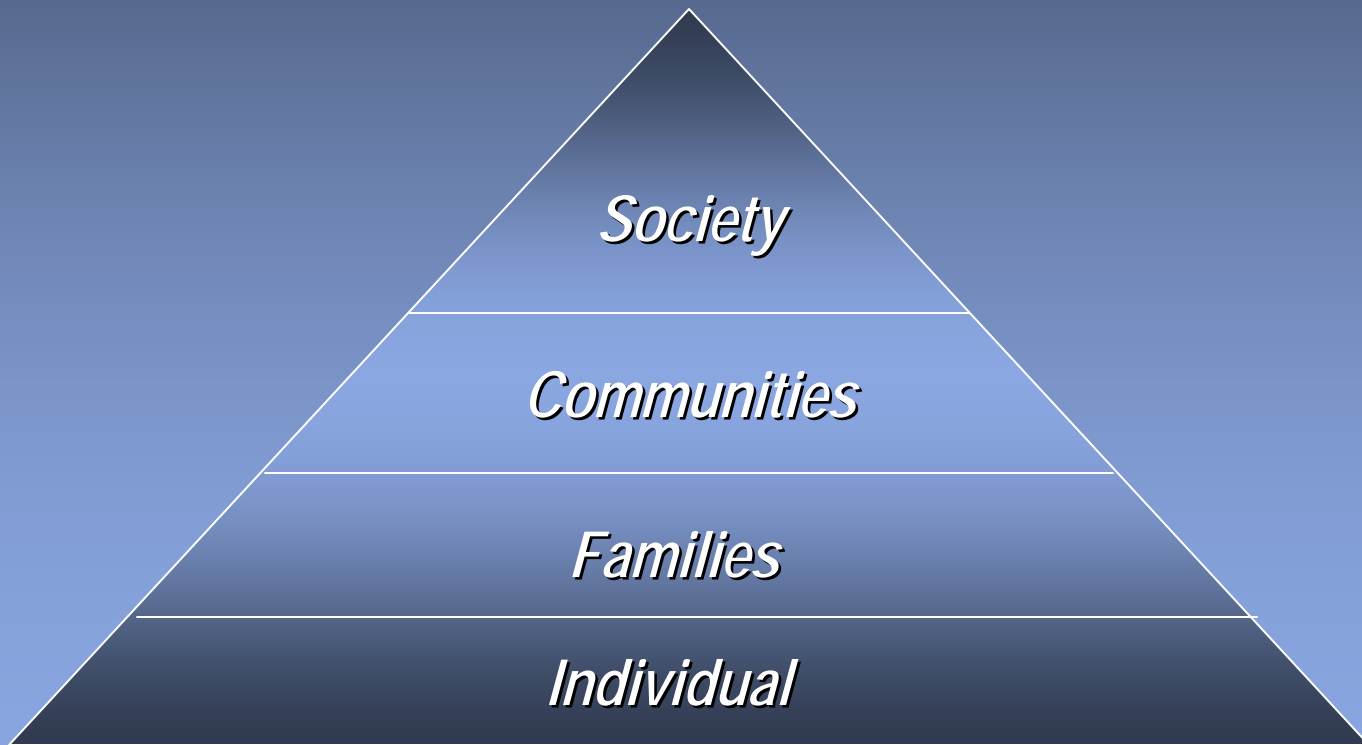
Changing Hearts and Minds

Changing the World



Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

The Traditional View or Common View:





Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

Empirical Failure of the Common View:

- *Orthodox Christians believers far outweigh any other grouping, whether liberal or secular*
- *86% – 88% of Americans claim a belief in God*
- *Yet our culture – business, law, government, academia, pop entertainment – is “intensely materialistic and secular”*
- *Traditional faith is in steady, observable decline*
- *Christians have a markedly decreasing impact on culture*
- *“Convictions” have not won the culture battles; they have only resulted in frustration, anger and retaliation*



Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

By Contrast:

- *Jews make up no more than 3.5% of the population*
- *Gays & lesbians make up no more than 3% of the population*
- *Both groups wield an inordinate degree of influence on the culture, far in excess of that of Christians and even other minority groups (compare – Blacks – 13%, Hispanics – 16%).*



Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

J. D. Hunter's View:

- *Culture is a product of history, over long periods of time;*
- *Culture relies upon symbolic capital: some culture-shapers matter more than others;*
- *Culture operates not from the bottom up, but from the top down, or more accurately, from the center outward;*
- *Cultural "elites" are at the center; the vast majority of change comes from the center, or close to center;*
- *Those on the periphery have little power to affect culture;*
- *Quality is more valuable than quantity.*



Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

J. D. Hunter's View:





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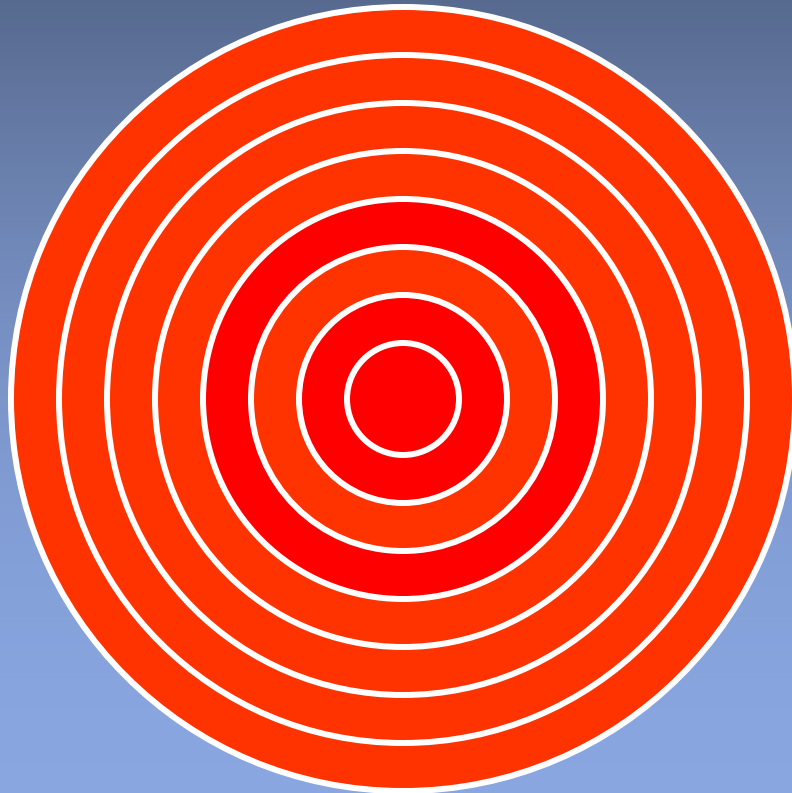
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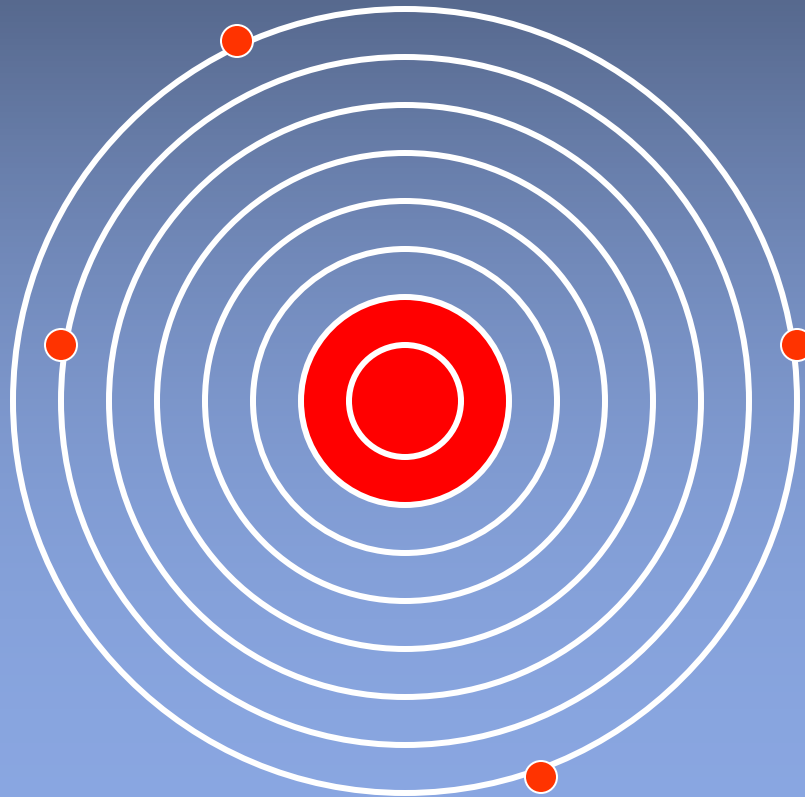
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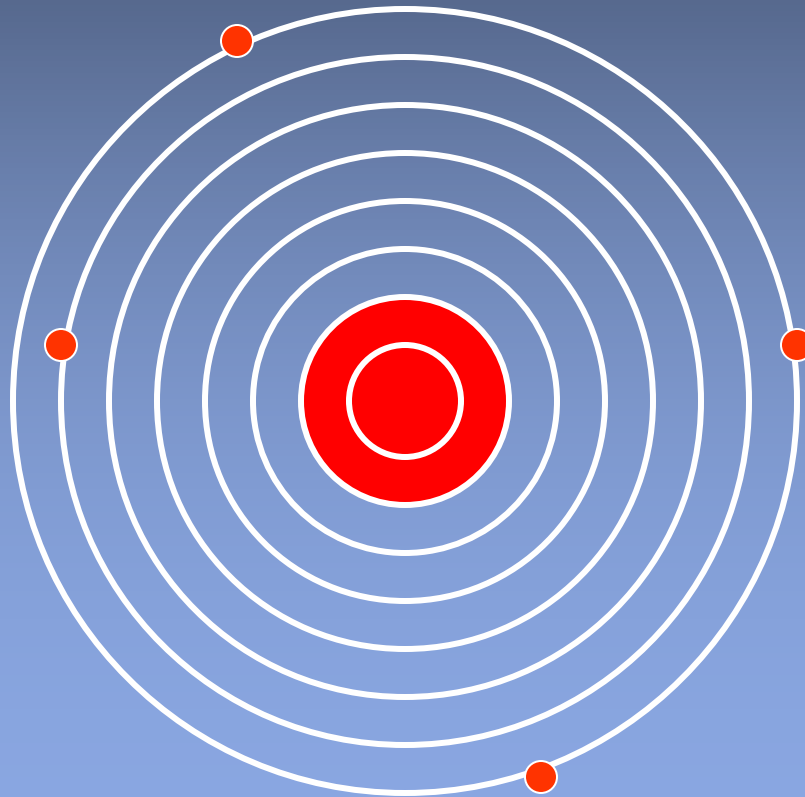
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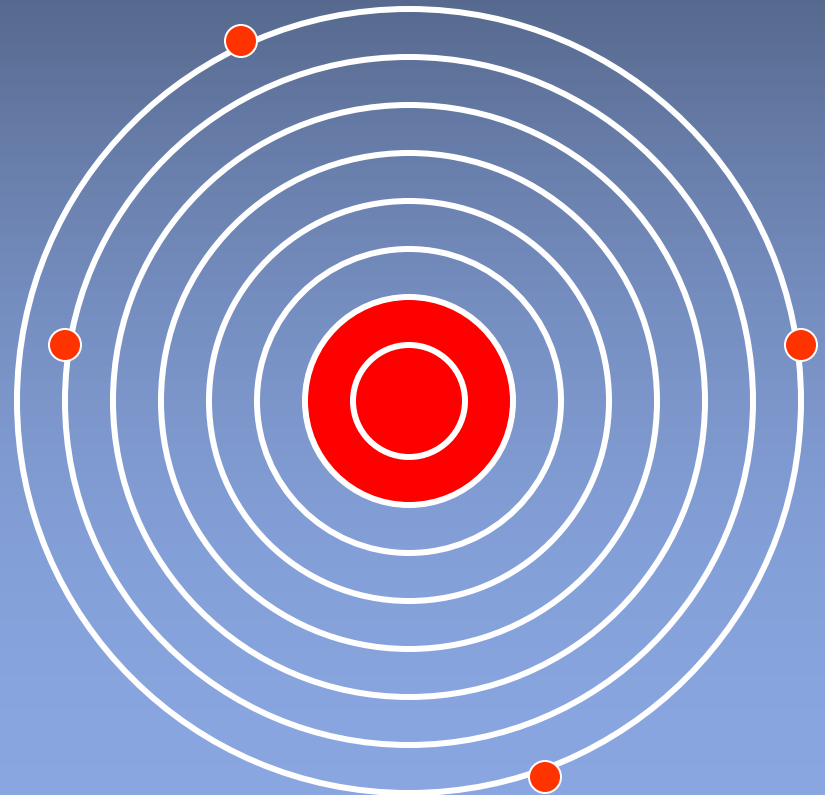


Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

J. D. Hunter's View:

Knowledge Influencers:

Academic Think Tanks
Elite Research Universities
Law Schools / Public Policy Schools
Elite Opinion Magazines / Journals
Elite Book Publishers
First and Second Tier Colleges
High End Journalism
Seminaries and Divinity Schools
Elite Private Schools
Practical Journalism
Mass-Market Book Publishing
Churches and Places of Worship
Public Education
Christian Schools



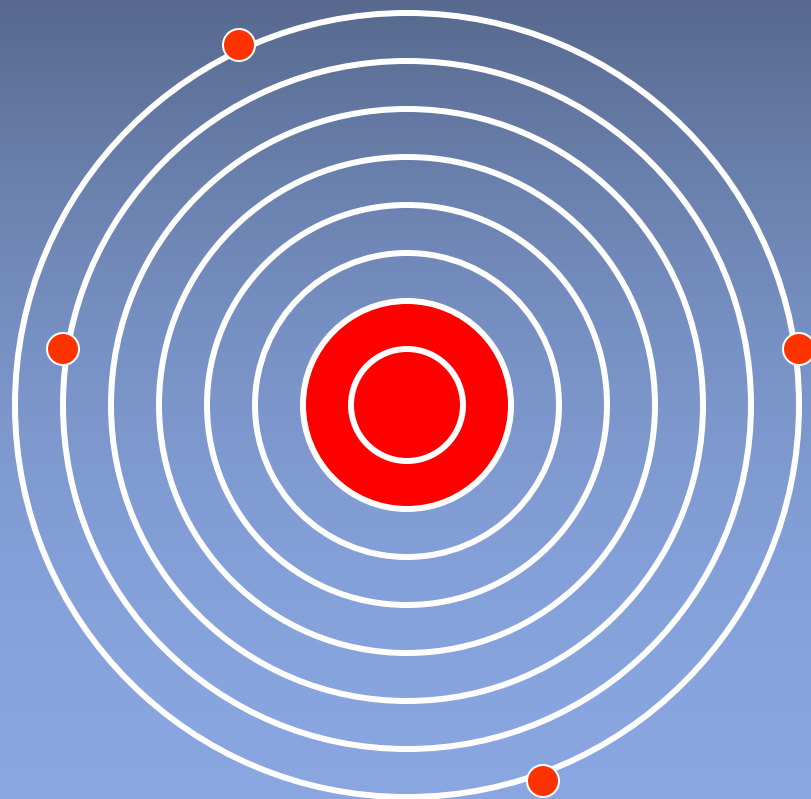


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- First and Second Tier Colleges
- High End Journalism
- **Seminaries and Divinity Schools**
- Elite Private Schools
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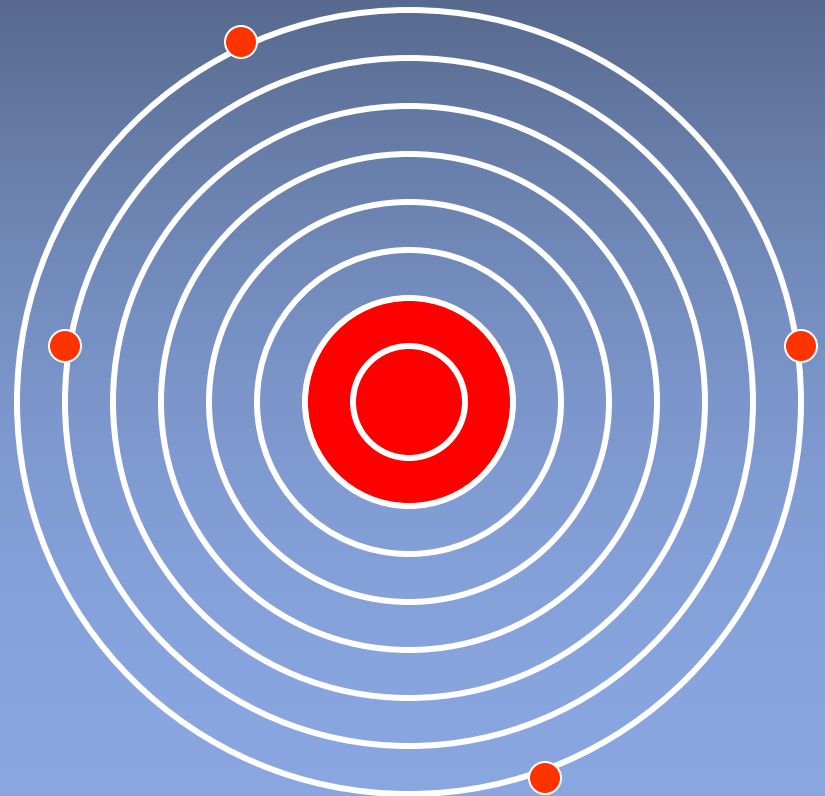


Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

J. D. Hunter's View:

Media / Artistic Influencers:

- Visual Arts
- Literature and Poetry
- Classical & Orchestral Music
- Theater & Dance
- Museums
- Public Television
- Public Radio
- Public Museums
- Film
- Jazz & Special Music
- High-End Advertising Agencies
- Primetime Television
- Mass Market Movies
- Popular Music
- Cable Television



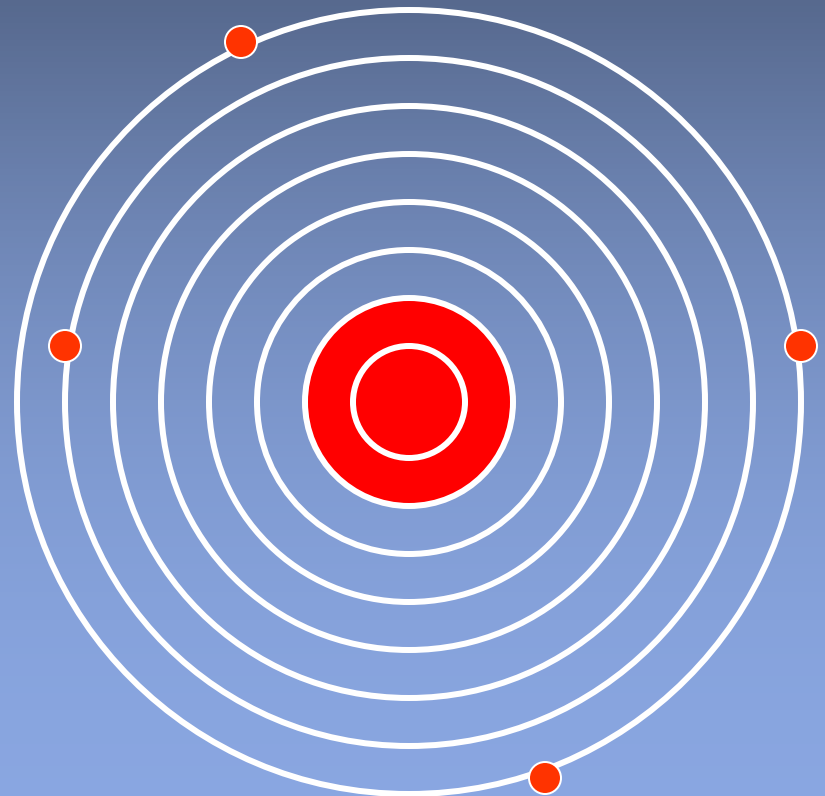


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- **Popular Music**
- **Cable Television**





Can Christians Change Culture & Society?

Conflation of the Public Sphere and Political Sphere:

Politicization – turning to law and government (the state) to find solutions to public problems.

Once, the political realm was a part of public life; today, most of public life has been reduced to the political realm.



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NEXT WEEK: Back to Where We Started

Should Christians (and more importantly, the Church) engage in the political/public realm?

*If so, how? If not, what are the alternatives?
How do we “change the world”?*



UP NEXT:

- Week 1: Should Christians Be Involved?
- Week 2: Avoiding the Trap of Civic Religion
- Week 3: Should Christians Withdraw or Set Themselves Apart?
- Week 4: Can Christians Change Culture or Society?
- Then: Societal & Political Engagement of the Right, Left and Center
- Followed By: Formulating an Effective Witness



INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)

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FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD
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