

Notes from Tommy Nelson's Presentations at Men's Conference 2016
When the Gospel and Culture Collide

What is culture? (*Jeremiah 12:14-17*)

The word culture no longer means what it used to mean. The original word means developing something. What something could be -- had the potential to become. Cultured vs. uncultured -- a certain value -- a preciousness of life. Culture makes life worth living. There is a sense of morality. It requires the most educated, well read, well mannered people. Christians are to be the best in society.

Matthew 13:14-16 Acts 17:16-21

Something changed. Culture is now the social media!

What is our culture?

What has happened to our culture. Here are nine major points from the book by Mario Llosa, *Death of Culture*. (Llosa is not a Christian)

1. The word "culture" has changed.
2. Culture is no longer shaped by ideas, but by images.
3. Culture is shaped by the big event -- we are not really contemplative anymore. We are watchers, not thinkers.
4. Culture is forbidden to forbid. No one is wrong anymore.
5. We are controlled by the erotic. Pornography is addictive.
6. There is a loss of confidence in authority.
7. Loss of craftsmanship. Very few people get to see the end-product of their work.
8. The past is now regarded as useless. It is all about the new.
9. The major purpose of life is the pursuit of wealth (possessions).

What do we do?

We are strangers in exile. We are not of this world. We are sojourners. (*Romans 12:1-2*) We live in two worlds. (*John 17:14-16*). This is not our final resting place. All cultures go through rise and decline. Here are ten things we should do as Believers:

1. Be confident in who you are. We are going to win! The world is looking for meaning.
2. Be wise in what you believe. Master your Bible!
3. Be strong -- know what you will not bend on. Examples: Joseph and Daniel.
4. Be consistent.
5. Be kind -- let your words be sweet.
6. Be sensitive to unbelievers. We have what they want.
7. Be in the family -- be regular in worship and ministry (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).
8. Be a family man -- be a good husband, love your children, love your grandchildren, love your daughters-in-law and your sons-in-law, and love your in-laws.
9. Be deliberate in impacting your day for Christ.
10. Be informed. Be smart. Be intelligent.