

Transforming Culture through a Transformed Life

This blog was written during Atlanta's 2020 racial strife...

My heart breaks for our nation and the great city of Atlanta. We must unite and create positive change. The time is now. It's time to love. It's time to lead. But how? Where do we start? I'm going to make a bold statement. Maybe even provocative. You may not want to hear it. But here it goes.

The solution doesn't begin with what we do, it begins with who we know.

The world will not change unless your heart changes first. The only person that can change the human heart, bring it from death to life is Jesus. If I've piqued your interest at all, I recommend you keep listening or reading. If not, I get it. You can tune me out or turn me off. But if I've got your attention and you want to learn how a transformed life can transform the culture, stay with me. . .

The solution doesn't begin with what we do; it begins with who we know.

If you're a believer and disciple of Christ, your mandate is to make more disciples and influence the culture. A disciplined leader's conversion to follow Jesus must be demonstrated in your daily life and not be kept private. Through your transformed life, you *must* impact your world. Disciplined leaders transform cultures through their own transformed lives.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled

under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:13–16 ESV).

To be salt means to preserve the culture. To be light means to show the way. To be both means to influence your entire world. As J. I. Packer wrote, "Christians are to involve themselves in all forms of lawful human activity As Christians thus fulfill their vocation, Christianity becomes a transforming cultural force."^[1]

Can something so large and complex as a culture—even your work culture—be transformed? Yes! But it starts with you. In *How Now Shall We Live?*, Charles Colson, former special counsel to President Richard Nixon and founder of Prison Fellowship and Breakpoint, wrote:

"Cultures can be renewed—even those typically considered the most corrupt and intractable. But if we are to restore our world, we first have to shake off the comfortable notion that Christianity is merely a personal experience, applying only to one's private life. No man is an island, wrote the Christian poet John Donne. One of the great myths of our day is that we are islands—that our decisions are personal and that no one has a right to tell us what to do in our private lives. We easily forget that every private decision contributes to the moral and cultural climate in which we live, rippling out in ever-widening circles—first in our personal and family lives, and then in the broader society."^[2]

In other words, a disciplined leader ought to be the same person on Sunday morning as he or she is on a Monday afternoon. There's no sacred-secular divide. There's only being a disciple and leading others toward Christ and

discipleship—every day.

It is a disciplined leader's job to take Christ's message to the world and, through that message and the power of the Holy Spirit, to change lives and change the culture. When you became a disciple of Christ, you became his ambassador and change agent through Christ. "A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks; a heart through which Christ loves; a voice through which Christ speaks; a hand through which Christ helps."^[3] Through Christ, you can make a difference in the world.

It's not about a cause; it's about Christ. Be bold, vocal, and stand for Jesus. Will you join Jesus in the Great Commission of making disciples and transforming the culture?

Do you want to discover how to grow your influence and make a positive difference? Visit my website, prestonpoore.com, today!

Cheers,

Preston

^[1] Packer, J. I. *Concise Theology*.

^[2] Colson, C. *How Now Shall We Live?*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1999.

^[3] Tan, P. L. *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc, 1996, p. 336.