The shift in cultural norms:

1950s
- WICKEDNESS
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- The Church Belief & Behaviors
- The World Belief & Behaviors

2000s
- WICKEDNESS
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- The Church Belief & Behaviors
- The World Belief & Behaviors
I wrote to 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 cast, you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

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 person from among you.”

1 Corinthians 5:12-13
Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards, nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:6-10

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12
How can we make a difference?

1. **EDUCATE** yourself, family, friends, and your church.

2. **MODEL** a biblical lifestyle.

3. **ENGAGE** your world with LIGHT, not HEAT.

How do we do that?

1. **READ** the *Culture Shock* book.

2. **DO** the *Culture Shock* Small Group with others.

3. **SHARE** the *Culture Shock* messages (CD/MP3) with others.

“**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 underfoot.”

“**You are the light of the world.**
A town built 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 others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16
Introduction: We’ve got a problem!

- The Symptom: Moral ISSUES
- The Issues: Ethics and VALUES
- The Dilemma: Who determines what’s RIGHT or wrong?
- The Question: What is TRUTH?

Understanding the real problem:

- Diagnosis - Our view of truth has dramatically shifted in the last 50-60 years.
  - Among Intellectuals - Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
  - In Education - The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom
  - In Law & Science - Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education by Phillip E. Johnson
  - In Culture - Escape from Reason and The God Who Is There by Francis A. Schaeffer
Summarizing the two models of truth:

“Truth is Relative”
Existential Concept of Truth

“Truth is Absolute”
Classical Thesis-Antithesis of Truth

This circle represents our experience. The dotted box is truth as the individual perceives it to be for himself through his experience.

The circle represents our experience. The box represents unchanging truth that is absolute. It affects the realm of our experience, but is just as true in its effect on all of life, whether experienced or not.

What happened?

• Historical analysis
• Philosophical analysis
How did it happen?

How is the “relative truth –vs– absolute truth” conflict played out daily?

• Public Rhetoric = “All are right”
  Pluralism
  Tolerance

  Truth is Relative

• Private Reactions = “My rights”
  Justice
  Fairness

  Truth is Absolute

• Painful Results = Sowing and Reaping

  “7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

  Galatians 6:7-8 (GNB)
What did Jesus say about truth?

• Jesus’ outrageous claims …
  1. … about Himself  
     John 14:6
  2. … about His Word  
     John 17:17

• Jesus’ outrageous concern …
  1. … about you  
     John 4:23
  2. … about your welfare  
     John 8:32

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between “relative truth” and absolute truth?

2. How did this “shift” of truth come about?

3. Why is it so important that we think clearly about what is true?

4. Discuss what aspect of Jesus’ words about truth most encouraged you.
Introduction:

Never in the history of the world has a culture shifted its values concerning sexuality as rapidly or as drastically as America in the last 50 years.

What Happened?

• The Shift

• The Causes

• The Impact

• The Cost

The Need: Thinking clearly about sex
Myth #1 - God Is Anti-Sex.

Truth: God is so pro sex He **CREATED** it to provide…

- Physical Pleasure  
  Genesis 1:26-27
- Procreation  
  Genesis 1:27
- Relational Intimacy  
  Genesis 2:18-24
- A Spiritual Object Lesson  
  Ephesians 5:31-32; Hebrews 13:4

Myth #2 – Christians’ sex lives and views of sex are dull, boring, and “out of touch.”

Truth: The Scriptures command God’s people to be downright **EROTIC** in their marital love.

- Proverbs 5:18-19
- I Corinthians 7:2-5
Myth #3 - As long as people love each other, sex is okay with God.

Truth: The Bible actually PROHIBITS all sexual relationships outside of marriage.

- You shall not commit adultery. 
  Exodus 20:14
- Abstain from . . .sexual immorality. 
  Acts 15:29
- Flee from sexual immorality. 
  1 Corinthians 6:18
- We should not commit sexual immorality . . . 
  1 Corinthians 10:8
- But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality. . . 
  Ephesians 5:3
- It is God’s will that you. . .should avoid sexual immorality 
  1 Thessalonians 4:3

Myth #4 - Only a “cosmic killjoy” totally out of touch with today’s culture and people’s needs would prohibit all sex outside of marriage.

Truth: God prohibits all immoral behavior outside of marriage because of His desire to:

- PROTECT you 
  Romans 6:23
- PROVIDE for you 
  Jeremiah 29:11

Myth #5 - Everyone needs to “sow their wild oats” and experiment sexually before they settle down in a long term relationship.

Truth: Sexual sins have uniquely DEVASTATING impact on people’s lives because . . .

- It’s a sin against YOURSELF 
  1 Corinthians 6:16-20
- It’s a sin whose roots are in spiritual REBELLION and IDOLATRY 
  Ephesians 5:3-7
**Myth #6** - It’s too late for me, sexual sin is so powerful, nothing can loosen its grip on my life.

**Truth:** Christ died to pay for the **PENALTY** of your sin and break its **POWER** in your life.

Step #1 – Be **HONEST**

Step #2 – **REPENT AND CONFESS**

Step #3 – **FORSAKE IT**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How did God speak to you through this message?

2. What new insight did you gain about sexuality from God’s perspective?

3. What step of faith do you need to take to allow your life and thoughts to conform to God’s will regarding your sexual life?

4. Why is it so important that you take this step? How will it provide God’s best for you and/or protect you from harm?
Introduction: Where do we begin?

Understanding the Issue – Two positions:

Homosexuality is a moral, alternative sexual orientation
- Born Gay
  - Homosexuality = An Identity
    - It’s “Who I am”
      - It’s Normal / Natural
        - It’s an Alternative Lifestyle
          - It’s a Civil Rights Issue

Homosexuality is an immoral, prohibited sexual lifestyle
- Learned / Developed
  - Homosexuality = Same-Sex Behavior
    - It’s “What I do”
      - It’s Abnormal / Unnatural
        - It’s a Destructive Lifestyle
          - It’s a Moral Issue
Examining the evidence – 7 premises of homosexuality:

- **Premise #1** – I was BORN this way.
  - Genetic Factors
  - Developmental Factors
  - Environmental Factors

- **Premise #2** – **10%** of the population are homosexuals. (or “How could so many be so wrong?”)

- **Premise #3** – The homosexual lifestyle is a NORMAL, healthy, “alternative” to heterosexuality.
• Premise #4 – The Bible may condemn lustful, indiscriminate homosexuality, but not LOVING, committed homosexual practice.

• Creation / Created Intent
  Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24

• Destruction of Sodom
  Genesis 19:4-9

• Old Testament Moral Law
  Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

• New Testament Teaching
  Romans 1:26-27
  1 Corinthians 6:9-10
  1 Timothy 1:9-10

• Why? - God’s Protection, God’s provision

• Premise #5 – Homosexual feelings and ATTRACTIONS to the same sex must mean I’m a homosexual.

• Premise #6 – Once a homosexual, ALWAYS a homosexual.

• Premise #7 – All Christians are “HOMOPHOBIC” and could never fully accept me, if they knew I struggle with homosexual feelings, fantasies, or practice.
Conclusion – Where do we go from here?

Discussion Questions:

1. How has the church failed to respond in both truth and love to the homosexual community?

2. Why is it so important to clearly identify the presuppositions (or “basic logic”) behind how people think and behave?

3. Which of the 7 premises gave you new insights into homosexuality? What was said today that “challenged your thinking” or present views? Discuss these.

4. How could God use you as an agent of truth and love in your present circumstances with regard to homosexuality?

5. In what way might you need additional help, either personally, or in helping a friend?
Introduction:

Regardless of where you stand, abortion is one of the most controversial, pivotal, and emotionally charged issues of our day.

- Real People – Real Problems
- Thoughtful Analysis vs. Emotional Reactions

Framing the issue = 2 positions… then and now:

- The Pro-Abortion (Pro-choice) Position
- The Anti-Abortion (Pro-life) Position

How technology transformed the debate:

The Issue Today: Does the pre-born baby have an inalienable right to live under any circumstances; or does the mother have the right to terminate her pregnancy to care for herself and her family’s welfare?

- If a pre-born baby is human life, then …
Culture Shock  
A Biblical Response to  
Today’s Most Divisive Issues

Understanding Abortion:  
A Thoughtful Analysis of an  
Emotionally Explosive Issue

- If a pre-born baby negatively impacts the mother’s mental or physical health or that of the welfare of her family and future then …

Examining the evidence … thoughtfully:

1. From Medical Science:

2. From Historical Research:

3. From the Biblical Record:

Premise #1 - all life is sacred. Human life is the most valuable and precious commodity in the world.

- Value by Creation and Design  
  Genesis 1:27

- Value by Protection Afforded  
  Genesis 9:6

- Value by Cost  
  I Corinthians 6:20, Mark 10:45
Premise #2 - Scripture affords the same sacred value on the “fetus”/pre-born baby as it does all other human life.

- Value by Design
  
  Psalm 139:13-16

- Value by Protection Afforded
  
  Exodus 21:22-25

- Value by Cost
  
  Psalm 51:5

4. Warnings from Personal Experience:

- The Pro-Abortion Camp

- The Pro-Life Camp

Application - responding to abortion today:

- Finding FORGIVENESS and HEALING.
  
  Psalm 86:5-7, 1 John 1:9

- Taking RESPONSIBILITY.
  
  Proverbs 24:11-12

- Establishing LIMITS.
  
  Romans 13:1-7

- Acting In LOVE.
  
  Ephesians 4:15-18
Discussion Questions:

1. As far as you can remember, when was the first time you heard the word “abortion?” Share the time in your life this occurred and how your understanding of this issue has developed.

2. Abortion is an emotional issue; what aspect of this whole debate has been the most "emotionally disturbing" to you?

3. In your opinion, which biblical passage most strongly supports the protection of a pre-born baby?

4. How would you “lovingly” articulate your convictions concerning abortion if asked by someone who genuinely wanted to know? What would you say? How would you support your position?

5. What specific steps of action would God have you take? Brainstorm as a group and come up with spiritual, legal, practical, and creative means that you as a “Christian Citizen” can do to make a difference. Now choose one or two of the proposed solutions and act on them this week.

Resources:

*All Creatures Great and Small: Abortion and the Meaning of Persons* by Kenneth Boa

*The Dark Underside of Abortion* by Sue Bohlin
Introduction: What do you think?

☐ The real issue with the environment is whether global warming is happening or not.

☐ “Tree huggers” and environmentalists are liberal, or new age, folks seeking to thwart economic progress and prosperity.

☐ The problem we are in today is a direct result of the “dominion” dogma, taught for centuries from Genesis chapter 1.

☐ The whole environmental debate is “overblown”. The Bible says it’s all going to burn up anyway.

☐ The earth is our “Sacred Mother,” the equal giver of life to all species, and as such all must be protected.

☐ The “going green” movement in business and government is just a “sham” to exercise undue control and increase profits.

The Question: How are followers of Christ to think, act, and respond to the controversial issue of the environment?

Examining the Scripture: What does God say about the environment?

1. The earth belongs to God.

   \[\text{Psalm 24:1-2}\]

   The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Implication: We are to HONOR God’s creation.

   \[\text{Genesis 1:1}\]
2. God appointed mankind “dominion” over the earth.

The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth He has given to mankind.

Psalm 115:16

Implication: We are the earth’s VICE REGENTS. Genesis 1:28, 2:15

3. The earth/nature has intrinsic value and reflects the character and beauty of the Creator.

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Psalm 19:1-2

Implication: We must explore not EXPLOIT; enjoy not WORSHIP the earth. Romans 1:19-21

4. Mankind is placed in the middle of the created hierarchy and is uniquely responsible to God (above) and for the animals, plants and resources (below).

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, 4 what is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them? 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You made them rulers over the works of Your hands; You put everything under their feet: 7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, 8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Psalm 8:3-8

Implication: We are to use not ABUSE animals, plants, and resources to glorify God.
5. God commands environmental stewardship to protect the land, animals, and vegetation for the common good.

   Leviticus 25:1-12, 23
   Deuteronomy 25:4; 20:19-20
   Matthew 6:26

   **Implication:** Consumption and productivity must be governed by the boundaries of CONSERVATIONS.

6. Christ’s redemptive work includes the earth.

   19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

   Romans 8:19-21

   **Implication:** We must treat the earth with the same PRIORITY God does.

   Revelation 21:1-4

Where do we go from here?

- Recognize and focus on the 7-8 verifiable issues we can all agree upon.
- Identify the 3 root causes of our poor environmental stewardship.
  1. **GREED**
  2. **IGNORANCE**
  3. **CARELESSNESS**
- Practical steps for you and your friends/family.
Discussion Questions:

1. How would you characterize your awareness and involvement in environmental issues?

2. What new insight did you gain from God’s Word on the environment?

3. How might you and your friends/family become a part of the solution?

4. How might you “build bridges” with those who are un-churched and passionate about the environment?
Introduction: How can you say you love God and…

➢ Yet talk about political issues in church?

  • The Position =

  • The Presuppositions =

➢ Yet not take a stand on political issues in church?

  • The Position =

  • The Presuppositions =

The Church’s Role

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Church’s Role</th>
<th>In Politics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separatist</td>
<td>No involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activist</td>
<td>High involvement</td>
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</tbody>
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The Question: How to navigate through the maze of the church/politics conflict?

The Answer: Four biblical absolutes for building a theological framework to think clearly about the Church and politics

1. There Are Two Kingdoms In Conflict. John 18:36-37, 19:10-12
2. Every Believer Has Dual Citizenship. Mark 12:13-17
4. The Church Is Ordained By God To Make Disciples. Matthew 28:18-20
The Next Question: How do we move from a theological framework to specific applications for daily living?

The Answer: Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the church, the government, and the individual believer in the political arena.

1. Let the CHURCH be the CHURCH!

2. Don’t expect the GOVERNMENT to achieve what only the CHURCH can ACHIEVE.

3. Don’t expect the Church to accomplish what only INDIVIDUAL believers can ACHIEVE.

Application:

• A Word to Separatists -

• A Word to Activists –
Discussion Questions:

1. Why is talking about politics and the church such a delicate issue?

2. What did you learn in this message that clarified God’s role for . . .
   
   The church?
   
   The government and its political process?
   
   The individual believer?

3. What specific responsibility do you have as a “citizen of heaven” with regard to politics?

4. What specific responsibility do you have as a citizen of the United States of America?

5. How will you choose to fulfill the responsibilities you identified in questions #3 and #4 in the coming weeks?
1. This is the **MISSION** of God.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.


2. This is the **VOICE** of God.

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.

Isaiah 1:17 (ESV)

God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods, He holds judgment:

“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 82:1-4 (ESV)
3. This is the **IMAGE** of God.

Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry? The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord love the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

Psalm 146:7-9 (ESV)

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and love the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

Deuteronomy 10:17-18 (ESV)

4. This is the **MOVE** of God.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV)

Note: Eddie Byun pastors in South Korea: www.eddiebyun.com