

# The Wonder of Culture

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## Introduction:

One of my favourite passages of Scripture is found in **Revelation 5:9-10** – **“And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”** This passage of Scripture helps me to understand the Kingdom of God and how culture is important to God. We are told that there will be people out of every tribe, language, people and nation who shall become a kingdom of priests to God because of Jesus Christ; his life, death and resurrection.

A definition for culture is the quality within a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent... In other words, when a person views life and the things that are excellent within society, one develops a basis for culture. The customary beliefs and values develop into social norms related to all aspects of life. To some degree each of the cultures represented here today have some good points and bad points. It is God’s desire that our cultures become subservient to the culture of God’s Kingdom. This means that there are points of culture that need to be redeemed to accurately reflect God’s design and purpose.

## Seven Mind-Molders of Culture:

One day 1975 Loren Cunningham of Youth with a Mission was in Colorado with his family on vacation. He got word from Bill Bright of Campus Crusade that he was also in Colorado. So they made an appointment to have lunch the next day. That night Loren received a word from God to share with Bill when they were eating. God told him that there were 7 Spheres of influence or 7 mind molders within society. If you want to influence a nation you have to take these 7 mind molders because whoever influences these 7 will influence the culture and whoever takes the culture will take the harvest!

Needless to say Loren was pretty excited to share this work with Bill the next day. When they sat down to eat lunch, Loren said to Bill “I have a word for you” and to his surprise Bill said “I have a word for you too!” They both pulled out the paper, or napkin, or whatever it was they wrote the word on. And guess what?! They both had the same thing written down!

God told them both the same 7 things that influence culture which influence the nations. In Christ we are his champions purposed to disciple the nations beginning at home, influencing these seven mind-molders for the sake of redeeming our cultures.

These are the 7 Mind Molders:

1. Religion
2. Government & Law
3. Arts & Entertainment

4. Education
5. Business
6. Media
7. Family

### **Kingdom Culture:**

We have looked at seven areas of worldly culture, now I want to highlight seven areas of Kingdom culture that are important to me. All of us have to some degree areas of Kingdom culture within us. We have certain beliefs and practices that have shaped who we are today. And all of us could write our own lists of beliefs and values regarding kingdom culture. Anyway, here is my top seven...

1. Super natural
2. Prayer
3. Worship
4. Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness
5. Missional
6. Peace
7. Honour

### **In conclusion:**

This morning we are speaking to the wonder of culture and the aspects within our cultures represented within Courts of Praise. I want to take some time to hear from the different cultures represented here today. Together we want to celebrate the excellence within our cultures.

### **Application:**

Let's eat...