

LIVING STRONG

Finding Stability in a Changing World

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING TODAY'S CHANGING WORLD



DEFINITION

"Culture" is a way of life of a particular people based on their values and worldviews>

DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the biggest changes you've noticed in our American culture over the past years?
2. How would you describe Christianity in America today?
3. Do you agree with those who say America is no longer a Christian nation? Why or why not?

SIX DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF TODAY'S CULTURE

1. Truth is based on _____.
2. Biblical morality is _____.
3. Marriage is becoming _____.
4. Our government is _____.
5. Technology has _____.
6. Christianity has become _____.

TWO BIG QUESTIONS IN THIS SERIES

How are we as Christians to live in today's changing culture?

How can we evangelize a disinterested society?

WHY 1ST PETER?

1. It tells how to flourish in a declining American culture.
 - He shows the importance of living holy lives in an immoral culture
 - He explains why we are to live holy lives
2. Peter's readers faced the same kind of social marginalization as we do.
 - His readers were living in a pagan Roman culture
 - Christians were viewed with suspicion by non-Christians
3. It reveals why Christians are often despised.
 - Christians are different
 - Christians are God-centered while others are me-centered
 - Christians are often characterized in media as being "weird"
4. It explains how Christians are to face times of testing (trials).
 - Peter instructs us to look forward
 - He encourages us to base our hope on our eternal life
 - He shows us that living in today's culture is only temporary
5. It shows why the right kind of hope is so important for Christians today.
 - Our hope is not in our government but in our God
 - Our hope is based on God's powerful promises, not wishful thinking
6. It helps Christians understand how to evangelize a post-Christian culture.
 - Because people today are not interested in church, the church must go to them
 - The gospel is being taken to an indifferent culture through missional communities