

Understanding our Culture

According to barna.com America is a very spiritually confused place...

- 93% of Americans believe Jesus was a real person who actually lived
- 63% say they have made a commitment to Jesus that is still important in their lives today
- 6 in 10 say they have “no doubt” Jesus will return someday (59%)
- 28% of practicing Christians agree that all people pray to the same god or spirit, no matter what name they use for that spirit being
- 23% of practicing Christians strongly agree that “What is morally right or wrong depends on what an individual believes”
- 32% strongly agree that “If you do good, you will receive good, if you do bad you will receive bad.”
- more than 70% of students from “Christian” homes deny their faith before graduation from a secular college.

Among the unchurched the skepticism is on the rise

- in the last 25 years the amount of skeptics under age 30 has nearly doubled from 1991 (18%) to 2015 (34%)
- In 20 years (1993-2013) the percentage of atheists and agnostics that were women has nearly tripled (16% - 43%)
- Skeptics now represent nearly 1 in 4 of all unchurched adults

The floodgates of immorality have been thrown wide open in our culture. This shift in morality is a result of the willful loss of the knowledge of God (Rom. 1:18-23ff)

- In their quest for the multibillion dollar teen market corporations have been shameless in their promotion of modesty, and teenage sexuality
- Since I graduated High School in 1975 teenage sexual intercourse has now become the norm rather than the exception.
- Acceptance and even celebration of homosexuality is now a cultural mandate.

Americans are bombarded with the concept of “divided truth”

- Biblical truth claims are regarded as either lofty moral concepts with no basis in facts, or hate speech that must be privately held or ruthlessly eliminated. As a result Christians feel immense pressure to keep silent in the marketplace of ideas.
- Students steeped in postmodernism have given up trying to answer “ultimate questions” They no longer have an answer to questions such as “Who made me?” “Who am I?” “Why do I exist?” “What is a human being?” “Is their moral standard outside of myself?” “What is the nature of reality?”
- The prevailing philosophies of our day undergird the sinner’s rebellion
 - Man is basically good
 - God is not knowable in a personal relationship
 - Man is able to comply with God’s moral requirements
 - God adjusts His standards to fit man’s moral capabilities
 - God accepts the religious/spiritual expression of each culture
 - Human goodness and righteousness are relative in God’s sight
 - Each religion has a particular “piece of the spiritual pie”
 - The Bible was written by men and has been corrupted/falsified
 - Modern science has the most trustworthy explanation of reality