

## “Do PRESENT... DON’T Conform”

---

Vocabulary for Our Times (Kairos Chapter 2019)

January 6, 2019

**INTRO** ...What Time is it?

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ... <sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ... <sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; <sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

### “Knowing What Time it is Is NOT Automatic”

**Matthew 16:1-3** And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ <sup>3</sup> And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”

Massively Helpful Awareness: **“Chronos” is happening within KAIROS** ...*Chronology, routines, settings and seasons of life are all happening WITHIN God’s KAIROS Agenda!*

— Ex’s of Chronos/Kairos Maps:

- **400 yrs in Egypt**
- **The Pre-Exilic Years**
- **Immanuel—God With Us!!**

**Luke 19:41-44** And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

*...v. 41-42 ...What did Jesus see that brought about His weeping?*

— **Jesus 3 yr ministry on Earth affords us a helpful and ominous awareness:** God can be doing His greatest acts, He can be nearer than He’s Ever Been, His Kingdom could be as “Right Here & Right Now” as it Ever is—and Some Won’t See it, Won’t Encounter it, Won’t be Affected by it!!

So... WHAT TIME IS IT? Has to do with the ‘KAIROS CHAPTER’ that we are entering into—On Earth ...In America ...at LCC ...in Your Family ...Personally

## Vocabulary for Kairos Chapter 2019—“Do PRESENT ...DON’T Conform”

**Romans 12:1-2** | appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present** your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> **Do not** be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**THEREFORE** ...This is where Paul Goes with Deep Theology! ...**11 Chapters of Teaching!** ...Teaching is a massively important deal for the N.T. Church!—**Then What??**

*I will now call you in chapters 12-16 to a kind of life that is built on something. It doesn't come out of nowhere. It has roots. This new Christian life is built on chapters 1-11.” John Piper, “Present Your Bodies as Living Sacrifices”*

- **DO... Present Yourself to God in worship**

*And what are we to do? To present our bodies to God, not our souls, alone, to make real, practical work of it. Let this flesh and blood in which your body dwells be presented to God” Charles Spurgeon, Exposition of Rom 12*

- **DON'T... be conformed to this world**

**...God and This World (Our Culture) are Seeking to be THE Shaping Influences in our Lives in 2019!!**

#### **DON'T be Conformed to This World—Practice MIND RENEWAL**

- **“Conformed”** = to conform one's self (i.e. one's mind and character) to another's pattern, (fashion one's self according to) ... *“stop being molded by the external and fleeting fashions of this age”* (from “The Complete Word Study Dictionary”)
- **“This World”** = ? ... **“CULTURE”** is a good approximation

*So what is culture? ...culture is the world in which we are born and the world that is born in us. Or, put another way, the world in which we live and the world that lives in us, which means we are talking about everything. Culture is the comprehensive, penetrating context that encompasses life and thought, art and speech, entertainment and sensibility, values and faith. It cannot be reduced to that which is simply economic or political, demographic or technological. ...it is a spirit, a perspective on the world. It doesn't simply give a context for our values; it shapes our values because it has values in and of itself. It doesn't just provide the atmosphere for something such as communication; it forms what communication is and how it is achieved. Culture alters not only what is said but also what is heard—and how. ...it cannot be reduced to any one thing. Instead, it is an entire way of life. And, he adds, it is largely self-created. Culture is something we invent, create, and fashion. ... I was struck by a quote I came across one day: ““ I am the art in your art houses, the ideas in your institutions, the laws in your land, the message in your movies, the thoughts of your teachers, the values your kids value. I affect you. Do you affect me?”—*

*Culture.*” (from "Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World" by James Emery White, p. 80)

## "DON'T" !!

...This is our 1<sup>st</sup> Vocabulary Word— "DON'T"

— We live in an "Ever-Indulgent" Culture! ...It doesn't know how to stop or slow down or put boundaries on things!

- It is Open to Trying Almost Anything!



[Mayor Bill de Blasio](#) ✓ [@NYCMayor](#) Everyone has a right to their own identity. Everyone has a right to be themselves. That's why New Yorkers can now change their gender to M, F, or X on their birth certificate. To our transgender and gender non-binary neighbors, New York City sees you and has your back.

Generation Z is the most racially diverse of any generation to date. As a writer for the Bloomberg News put it, "It may be the first generation for which diversity is a natural concept."<sup>44</sup> They are globally connected, which means their social circles are often global. Or as one research project put it, "26 percent of Gen Z would need to fly to visit most of their social network friends."<sup>45</sup> This diversity also leads to being "accepting" and "inclusive." Some have described this as the "Kumbaya" dynamic, members of Generation Z standing in a circle holding hands. They are connected to people around them and aware of the world beyond themselves.

<sup>46</sup> **Sexually Fluid** The accepting nature of Generation Z leads to strong support for such things as gay marriage and transgender rights. They are coming of age in the era that has put such things in the mainstream, such as in 2015 when the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage and former-Olympian-turned-reality-TV-star Bruce Jenner very publicly became Caitlyn Jenner. Indeed, according to the Northeastern University study, the "question of same-sex marriage is decisively settled for them, with 73 percent in favor."<sup>47</sup> For Generation Z, the idea of "acceptance" is often interchangeable with the idea of "affirmation." Yet it would be a mistake to see Generation Z as simply the product of an abrupt social change related to such headlines. As Michael Gerson and Peter Wehner have noted, when the Supreme Court decided in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage, it was the result of cultural trends that emerged in the context

*of heterosexual, not homosexual, relationships. "Marriage was not redefined only by the Supreme Court," they write. "It was also redefined by decades of social practice." In other words, decades of radical individualism—particularly in sexual ethics—that resulted in a "shift in attitudes, behavior, and laws on divorce, abortion, cohabitation, out-of-wedlock births, gender roles, and now, decisively, same-sex marriage." <sup>48</sup> Translation: Generation Z is the cultural product of decisions made by earlier generations as opposed to their own. ...Nonetheless, from this shift in attitudes and behaviors Generation Z has become sexually and relationally amorphous. Consider the influential statements by outspoken young celebrities such as Kristen Stewart, Miley Cyrus, and Cara Delevingne. Stewart, when asked about her sexuality, said, "I think in three or four years, there are going to be a whole lot more people who don't think it's necessary to figure out if you're gay or straight. It's like, just do your thing." And from Miley Cyrus: I don't "relate to being boy or girl, and I don't have to have my partner relate to boy or girl." (from "Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World" by James Emery White, p. 45-47)*

*The YouGov survey revealed that 49 percent of people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four identified as something other than 100 percent heterosexual. This despite the repeated findings that only about 4 percent of the entire adult population is actually homosexual. What is being revealed is an increasing sexual fluidity that refuses either the homosexual or the heterosexual label. The idea is that both labels are repressive. Sexuality should be set free from any and all restrictions, and people should be allowed to follow their desires, moment by moment. (from "Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World" by James Emery White, p. 47)*

**Psalms 24:1-4** The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, <sup>2</sup> for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. <sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who **does not** lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

- ***Our Culture is clear when life is "Not Enough" but it is Silent about Life Having TOO MUCH***
- "Enchanted" Series made us aware of the "Molds" of "Personal Human Flourishing" and "Immanence Only" Mindsets that Govern Our Interests and Pursuits!

***...DON'T!! ...Don't Create a World for Yourself that Doesn't Need or Look to God!***

*"The heart of secularism is a functional atheism. Rather than rejecting the idea of God, our culture simply ignores him. Or as Cathy Lynn Grossman concluded, people today "aren't [merely] secularized. They're not thinking about religion and rejecting it; they're not thinking about it at all." <sup>7</sup> This is a new and profound break with the history of Western thought and culture. Even among those times and places that might be called pagan, true secularity in this sense was unknown. Whether it was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob or the gods of Greece and Rome, there were gods— something outside of themselves that people looked to. It would have been alien to anyone's thinking to begin and end with themselves alone in terms of truth and morality, which means there would never have been a sense in which such things were self-generated or self-determined. No more." (from "Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World" by James Emery White, p. 20)*

## **"Present"**

***...This "DON'T" is Informed by a Critical "DO"— "Do Present Yourself to God in Worship"***

**Romans 6:13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**"Present"** = *to give yourself, to yield yourself, to offer yourself; Gk. = 'to place near'*

—DON'T HOLD BACK Anything of Yourself from God!—Give Him Willing Access and Complete Permission with All that You Are!