



Gospel Renewal Lesson 11: Loving the City Part 5

2 Minutes of Silence

Overview:

So far we have explored biblical ways to view cities and to contextualize the gospel in diverse cultures—both vital to ministry in our times. But perhaps the most visible and controversial subject for the church in our time is the question of cultural engagement—that is, how can we as Christians respond to dramatic changes in our culture? How can we embrace and participate in what's good? Is our posture defensive, distant, embracing, or a mixture of all of the above?

How we view our culture shapes whether we seek to escape the "wicked" city, or move in and seek work as an artist; whether we struggle to uphold Christian values through the ballot box or through community service; whether we celebrate the good we see in the culture around us or are suspicious of it.

In this session, Keller discusses four models for engaging contemporary culture, acknowledging that each model has strengths and weaknesses—ways in which it reflects a particular biblical emphasis and other ways in which it reflects an un-biblical imbalance or idol. The book Center Church argues for a model of cultural engagement that blends the key insights of each model, acknowledging the truth behind each model but also the danger of taking any in isolation.

Cultural engagement is answering the question, "How should Christians relate to the culture around us?"

Watch Video: Intro to Cultural Engagement (7 minutes)

Who were the key voices that shaped your practice into what it is today? Which influences have you discarded or picked up along the way?

Watch Video: Four Models of Cultural Engagement (11 minutes)

This talk references the diagram on the last page

Notes:



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Which of the four models most closely represents your own? Which models were you unfamiliar with?

Which critiques did you particularly resonate with, and which (if any) did you find yourself objecting to?

Keller names good motivations or insights behind each approach. Do you agree that all four have their strengths?

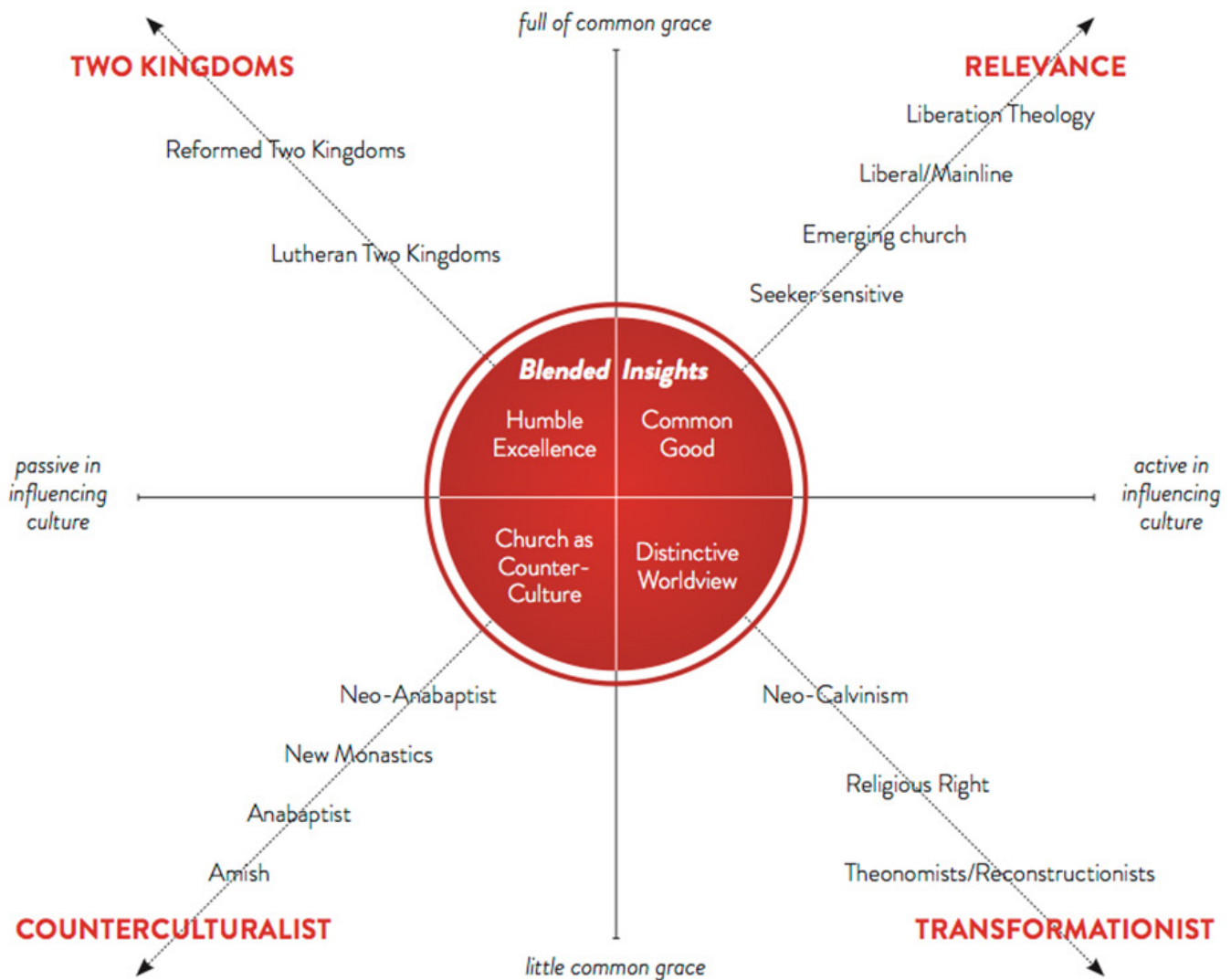
Watch Video: Panel Questions (10 minutes)

Homework

Read: Why All of the Models Are Right...and Wrong (pages 245-259)
Cultural Engagement Through Blended Insights (pages 260-273)

Pray:

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Excerpted from Center Church by Timothy Keller, p. 231 (Zondervan, 2012).