



Gospel Renewal Lesson 9: Loving the City Part 3

2 Minutes of Silence

Review last week's Assignment: Learning our Culture From the Inside

Overview:

Whether or not you live in cities, the city is coming to you. According to some estimates, 75% of the world's population will live in cities by the year 2050. Even for those in suburbs and small towns, our economy, popular culture and the products we consume are increasingly shaped by cities.

Does this terrify you? Many Christians believe cities are places of rampant vice and hostility to faith. Yet this session will argue that the city is a place where human sin and creativity are simply compounded. Cities are full of souls God cares about. And there is much in the Bible about cities (which we could define as any agglomeration of people) and how to relate to them.

In this session, Timothy Keller will examine how the city develops as a theme throughout Scripture, its strategic importance for mission, and its eventual culmination and redemption in glory. Most important, a city vision will challenge us to a genuine love for the place we are called to reach with the gospel, rather than hostility or indifference toward it.

Discuss as a Class:

What Does the word "city" mean to you?

How does Mooresville fit in with the City? How would you define this place?

What data can help us understand our community?

Population: _____
Formal Categorization (City, Town, Suburb, etc.): _____
Growth Rate: _____
Major Industries: _____
Percentage of Commuters: _____
Percentage of residents moving from urban areas: _____

1 What other data? _____



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Watch Video: The City in Our Culture and in the Bible (12 minutes)

Notes:

What is your attitude toward the city and it's culture? Do you tend think more often that urban culture is predominately negative or do you tend romanticize the city? What about our church, do we tend toward one side or the other?

How have you seen the culture of the city impact Mooresville?

How does understanding this dynamic impact our ministry as a church?

Homework

Pray: Take time this week to walk through your neighborhood and pray for the people who live near you.

Read: The Call to the City & The Gospel for the City (pages 136-172) only 5 pages a day!