

Gospel Culture: The WAY

Text: Matthew 7:13-14

What is CULTURE? Culture = *shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization* [MW Dict.]

What is GOSPEL CULTURE?

- 1) Gospel DOCTRINE = This I BELIEVE
- 2) Gospel IDENTITY = This IS WHO I AM
- 3) Gospel FLUENCY = This I PROCLAIM
- 4) **Gospel CULTURE = This is THE WAY we LIVE out our FAITH**
 - a) **The earliest NAME for the church – “The WAY”:** Acts 24:14, 15ac. See also: Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:22
 - b) ≠ American political conservatism NOR extra-biblical rules
 - c) = **Gospel SHAPED and TRANSFORMED attitudes, values, goals, and practices shared by Jesus followers**

Two WAYS to LIVE: Matthew 7:13–14

- 1) **A NARROW way (DOCTRINE) – ONLY through JESUS:** John 14:5–6
See also: John 6:44-45
- 2) **A HARD way (BEHAVIOR) – it requires FOLLOWING JESUS into DAILY SELF-DENIAL and DEATH:** Luke 9:23
- 3) **A RARE way – for the “few” who will be saved:** Luke 13:23–24. See also: Matthew 22:14
- 4) **A CHOSEN way:** Deuteronomy 30:15, 19

Two WAYS to LEAD (and BE lead): Matthew 7:15–20. See also: Matthew 3:10, 12:33-35

- 1) **WATCH for the DECEITFUL on the way:** 1 John 4:1. See also: Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Matt. 24:11, 24; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1
- 2) **IMITATE the FAITHFUL on the way:** Heb. 13:7. See: 2 Tim. 3:10-11
- 3) **DISPLAY authentically the WORK OF GOD in your life on the way:** Galatians 5:22–23; Isaiah 30:21, 35:8. See also: Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 15:18-19; James 2:18; Psalm 23:3; Isaiah 30:9-11

Two WAYS to FOLLOW: Matthew 7:21–23

- 1) **We can preach, cast out demons, do miracles and STILL BE DAMNED because of our rebellion, sin and unbelief – consider Judas.** See: Matthew 24:24; Luke 9:2; 10:1, 17
- 2) **BELIEVE (TRUST and ENTRUST):** John 6:40
- 3) **OBEY from the HEART:** Romans 6:17. See also: Deuteronomy 30:6; Matthew 5:17-20

Two WAYS to END: Matthew 7:24–27

- 1) **FOOLISH COLLAPSE in LIFE and for ETERNITY:**
 - a) **Self-satisfied and self-willed:** Proverbs 14:12. See: Prov 16:25
 - b) **Self-righteous (including “+ Gospel”, “Gospel +” AND “Gospel –”):** Proverbs 30:12. See also: Deuteronomy 30:18-20
- 2) **STEADFAST in LIFE and for ETERNITY:** Matthew 16:16, 18. See also: John 17:3, Romans 8:35-39

Gospel In Life Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?