

# Why Do We Wear Jeans? Part 2

What does this have to do with Sunday School?  
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# Issues & Answers Fall Schedule

- Today: *Why Do We Wear Jeans? Part 2*
- Sep 25: *The Need for a Creed* – Steve Radcliff
- Oct 2: Stan Ott
- Oct 9-16 – “Fair share” - *What does the Bible say about Social Justice?* – Dave Reich

# Today's Outline

- Week 1 Review – The Times Are Changing
- What is culture?
- How culture is changed – through which institutions
- How culture was changed historically
- How Christians are affected by the culture
- Our missions in today's culture

# The Times Are Changing

- 1 Kings 22:1-14 Story of Micaiah, “What the Lord says to me, that shall I speak.”
- Matthew 23:27-36 Jesus says to the Pharisees, “you will kill the prophet”
- Both texts explain what we are experiencing today.
  - Truth being sacrificed on the altar of unity – and it is occurring in widespread fashion *IN* the church
    - “*We live under a dictatorship of relativism*” – Pope Benedict
  - Persecution is here

# Worldview and culture

- How is culture (the minds and hearts of people) shaped?
  - The gospel is always preached in consideration of its cultural setting
    - *The responsibility of the Christian Church is not only to hold to the basic, scriptural principles of the Christian faith, but to communicate these unchanging truths “into” the generation in which it is living. – Francis Schaeffer in, *Escape from Reason* (207)*
  - Culture comes from Worldview
- The critical need to understand worldview
  - Not an attack of the non-believer
  - It is about equipping ourselves to unpack the falsehoods that non-believers and many believers hold and be better witnesses.
  - See Paul in Athens (Acts 17)

# Why Do We Wear Jeans?

- Why do we wear jeans?
  - Fashionable, durable, comfortable?
- The Rise of Jeans
  - In the 1930's & 40's, no one would have been caught dead in public wearing denim, even during the depression
  - What changed and why did it change?

# Why Do We Wear Jeans?

- Social engineers & intellectuals within “high culture” – progressives and economic redistributionists wanted to “fix” income inequality and promote egalitarianism.
  - They won the debate politically
    - Raised taxes four-fold;
    - Nearly 8 million people joined, “Share the wealth clubs”
      - How many of these folks were “Christians”??
    - Dozens of New Deal redistribution schemes established
  - They won the debate culturally
    - Jeans in Hollywood: James Dean, Marlon Brando, Elvis Presley
    - Fashion Houses began to appeal to “teens”
    - In the early 50’s very few wore jeans, by the 70’s very few didn’t

# Rebel Without A Cause





# Jeans became a symbol of class egalitarianism

- Change in fashion house marketing – 1940's to adults, teens followed “suit”; 1950's – big change in marketing directly to teens
- James Dean style became a symbol against conformity, 9-5 working fathers, suburban living
- This was the first era in history when turning heads meant dressing down, not up.
- “Jeans weren't only a symbol of democratization, they put different classes on a level playing field.” – the BBC
- We now wear jeans based on an ideology
  - Believing or doing something, but not knowing why.....
- It is a component of one's worldview

# The once most recognizable CEO



# What is our commission?

- Worldview comes from theology, philosophy and culture.
  - A framework for thinking that (consciously or unconsciously) helps us to interpret how we make sense of reality.
  - Drives why we see cultural changes from one generation to the next
- At the time of the fall, man was separated and alienated from (Romans 1):
  - God
  - Himself
  - His fellow man
  - The natural world
- Conversion includes reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ but also a mandate to be reconciled to each other (Matthew 5:24), to ourselves and to the earth.
  - I John 1:7 – *If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another*
  - We have both the Great Commission and the Cultural Commission taught in scripture (Ten Commandments are a basic ethical mandate)

# The change in how culture is defined

- 18<sup>th</sup> century definition
  - Johann Gottfried Herder, 18<sup>th</sup> century:
    - “Culture is the lifeblood of a people. It is the flow of moral energy that keeps a society intact. It is a certain set of shared values of right and wrong, of good and evil, that is not universally shared, but that there is a common core that holds.”
- Today’s definition:
  - Princeton Philosopher, Clifford Geertz:
    - “Culture is simply the ensemble of stories we tell about ourselves”.

# Culture by Today's definition

- Any story is possible; no connection to anything outside of ourselves
- No flow of moral energy outside of ourselves
- Any story is as good as the next
- Human-centered
- The public is indifferent to facts
  - “Just give me the facts ma’am” vs. “Facts don’t matter”.
- Reality and fantasy are now indistinguishable
- Truth is relative
  - “We live under a dictatorship of relativism” – Pope Benedict

# How did we get to this point in Western Culture?

- From a culture where truth, natural law, scripture was the foundation?
- To a culture of secularism, pluralism and privatization?
- To a culture devoid of shame and reason where Christianity has been privatized?
- Did it start in the 1960's?
- At the 1925 Scopes Trial?
- When?

# First, how culture is created

- Begins with “high culture” in the intellectual class – the universities
  - E.G., What cultural emphasis existed at the time of Bach or Handel?
    - Rich, theistic, mathematical culture, scripture informed people about the knowledge of God, man and nature.
    - True and unified knowledge
- “High culture” ideas get tested in “common culture”
  - In Business and government - where power is concentrated
  - If you don’t support “common culture”, you are a dissident and anathema to the power structures
    - Diversity training

# How culture is created

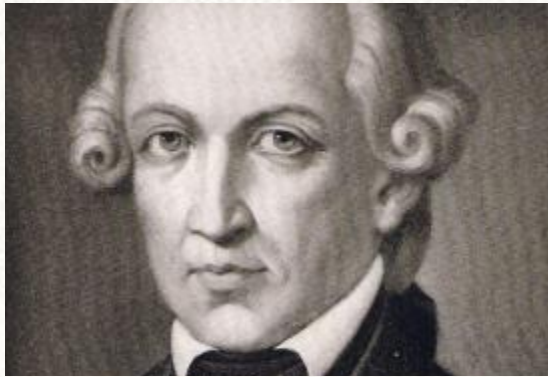
- “Common culture” makes its way into “pop culture”.
  - Through Hollywood
    - Why both political conventions have celebrities speak
    - Why we elect the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jesse Ventura
  - Not many people are going to be familiar with Geertz and the “high cultural” elites, but many will be influenced by celebrities such as Gene Wilder



# How culture was changed

250 years in 10 minutes

# The Two Big Bad Guys



Immanuel Kant  
German



George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel  
German

# How these guys influenced the world

- Kant:
  - Prior to Kant and from the Reformation
    - Material and immaterial were both part of the same reality
    - Grace and nature were integrated
    - – material world naturally flowed into the immaterial or metaphysical world – ethics, law, theological truth, math
    - The “whole” person was important
      - Plato emphasized the soul, modern man the body
    - Man thought in terms of antithesis – antithetical thought ultimately rests on the view that God exists over and against that He doesn't.
    - From Plato until Kant, man sought, knew and lived in light of the idea that there was unified field of knowledge.
    - Scientists believed in the uniformity of natural causes, but in an “open” system.

# Kant

- Kant said fact and value or nature and grace are “separate”. We can only know what we can test. All else is just “belief” or “value”.
  - Man and his humanistic rationalism is decoupled and declared to be autonomous from the natural world.
  - Ethics, God, Bible are in the world of value, not of “fact”.
  - Beliefs aren’t “bad” per se, they have no connection to the real world of nature even if such beliefs are shared within culture.
  - Grace was replaced with autonomous freedom.
  - Man becomes the center of the universe.
  - Science still believes in a uniformity of causes but now in a “closed” system. Nothing supernatural can penetrate the natural world.
  - “High culture” bought Kant’s idea and it made its way into common and pop culture even in the church.

# Reality back then

- Before Kant:

Grace  
Nature

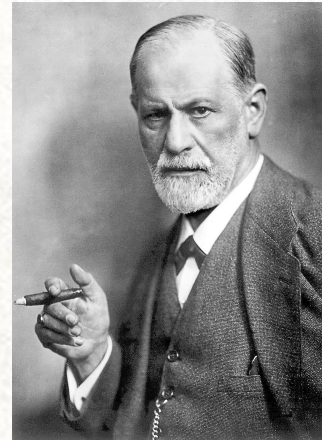
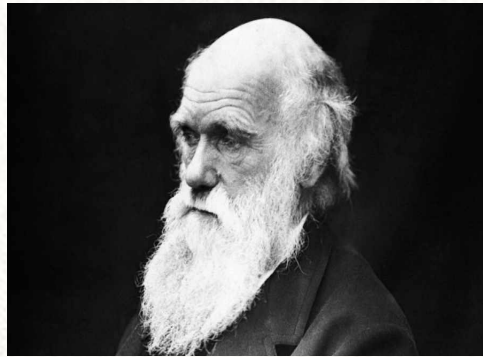
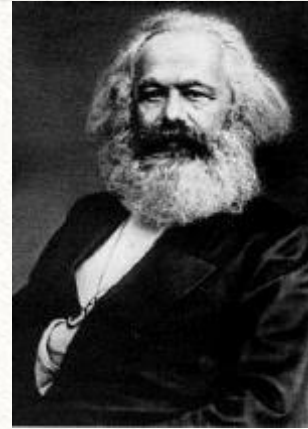
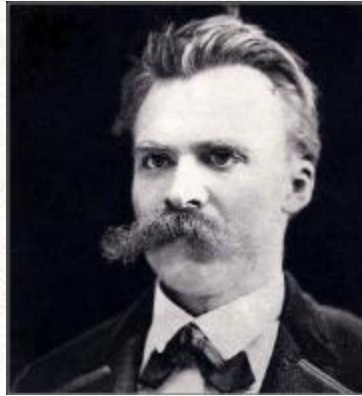
- After Kant:

Freedom  
Nature

# How these guys influenced the world

- Hegel:
  - There is no established body of ethical or theological truth, but *each era decides for themselves* what is ethical or true.
  - You don't know whether something is true or not, or good or not *until the era is complete*.
    - The rise of relativism
  - Ideas are developed into a thesis which is tested, synthesized until they don't work, and then a new idea and thesis emerges
  - Rejects the law of non-contradiction, rejects timeless objective truth; truth is "historically contingent".
  - This is "Progressivism"

# The Four Horsemen of the “Apocalypse”

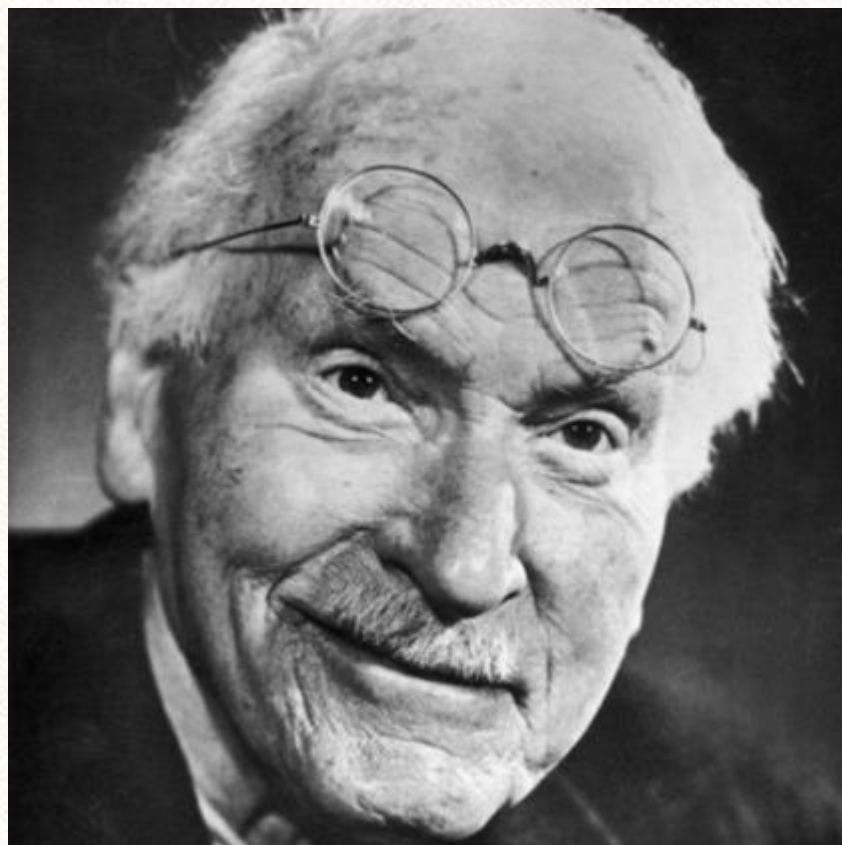


# The Four Horsemen

- Nietzsche – there are no facts, only interpretations of data.
  - One step beyond Kant
  - No such thing as truth
  - Inspires most artists and philosophers and NAS today
- Marx – all that matters is the distribution of capital
- Darwin – we can understand everything in the universe purely through biology
- Freud – everything is explained by psychology
  - Morality just suppresses sexual desire
- All these guys promoted the view that we are machines deterministically driven by economics or biology or psychology or the self
  - Not only is grace lost, so is freedom



# The Nail in the Coffin



# Carl Jung

- Jung – promoted “spirituality” and the joining of the opposites to “oneness”. Good and evil are blurred and merely “perspectives”.
  - The “inner self” is all that matters.
  - We are “mystics with no one there”
- The change spread:
  - Geographically from Germany outward to the rest of Europe and now to the U.S.
  - Through the intellectuals, common culture, and pop culture (art, music, movies) and to theology

# Reality Today

Values (socially constructed souls)  
Facts

Non-cognitive, non-rational, non-historical “faith”  
Rational, verifiable

Postmodern  
Scientific Naturalism

- Shaeffer’s “line of despair”
- Below the line, “you have math, particulars, mechanics; man has no meaning, no purpose, no significance.”
- Above the line is a non-rational leap to “faith”
  - Neo-orthodoxy: precise definitions in the upper story are gone
    - Precise definitions confined to below the line
- “The line has become a concrete horizontal, then thousand feet thick line with highly charged barbed wire fixed in concrete”.

# Why is our culture like it is today?

- How do the views of these 7 guys show up in today's culture?
  - From an integration of the natural world and the spiritual world  
Nature/Grace and Fact/Value and of the whole man (body/soul)
  - To a world where the body and the soul/spirit are completely in separate spheres,
  - Where Supreme Court Justice Kennedy states: *"Each person has the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."*
- We are witnessing a return to ancient pagan Gnosticism that the early church confronted – spirit and body are separate. Gnostics believed the body was irrelevant.
  - We are just "ghosts in a machine"
    - Mind is separate from biology – we wonder how people can say they are the opposite gender of what their biology dictates
  - Difference between how a "machine" and a person are created

# Away from biblical understanding of reality to a worship of creation

- People have a secular Armageddon where people have no interest in truth, goodness and beauty, but in catastrophe.
  - Just watch the news and note how many reports are about present and future calamity
  - Movies – violence and destruction
  - Zika virus
  - Sea level rise
    - “*Climate change trends are terrifying*” – President Obama to the NY Times, Sep 9
  - Police brutality
    - 765,000 sworn policemen nationwide
  - Capitalism is the new beast
  - “Overpopulation”
  - An apocalypse with no God and no devil!

# The new metaphysics

- A Spiraling cycle of violence
- If you don't like something that is happening in the culture, find who it is to blame and punish them
  - Capitalism
  - Christianity is the cause of the environmental problems
  - Anderson Cooper blaming proponents of traditional marriage for the Orlando Islamic Terror attack at a homosexual night club
  - Progressive professor Mark Tushnet, of Harvard Law School declares: "The culture wars are over; they lost, we won....taking a hard line is better than trying to accommodate the losers. There will be no accommodations or exceptions."
  - Just like the blood sacrifices in ancient religions
- "You always kill the prophet" says Jesus to the Pharisees.
  - The Pharisees "used all their wit and power to serve their malice against him (Jesus); and thus they *shut up the kingdom of heaven*, so that *they who would enter into it must suffer violence*
  - Matthew 11:12: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force."

# How do we witness in this cultural milieu?

- What was church like in the second century?
  - Scripture read, short interpretation, discussion on how to live differently, took the Lord's supper, and then took an offering and went out into the community to "fix" the culture.
  - Earned the reputation of being problem-solvers in the towns.
- Athenagoras wrote a letter to the Emperor, Marcus Aurelius.
  - "Why are you persecuting us, we are your best citizens!"
  - "We are your best tax-payers"
  - "We value children"
  - "Abortion and divorce" is unknown among our ranks
    - Child mortality and child abandonment was rampant in the Empire

# Antioch

- Plagues, famines, earthquakes were part of its history
  - When Calamity occurred, everyone fled except for?
    - The Christians
    - When fleers returned, they found a *Christian city*



# The Good News context

- We are called by scripture to discern and understand how culture is shaped and the spiritual forces behind it.
  - 2 Corinthians 10:5: *“We demolish arguments and **every** pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.”*
- Today, 80-90% of Christians do not hold to a biblical worldview
  - Compartmentalization of nature and grace
    - As a result, the Church is not unified and is held captive to culture
    - “It is not merely that we think different things, we think differently” – Schaeffer
  - It has abandoned the hope of a unified answer for knowledge and life
  - The church lacks impact on culture
    - *“Religious ideas, institutions and interpretations have lost their social significance”* – Ravi Zacharias
    - Most of Christianity has become “ghettoized”
  - It damages our witness and our effectiveness at evangelism
  - We have chosen to engage in politics (common culture), but not much within the intellectual sphere (high culture).
  - Have we **lived** like the first Christians in Antioch?

# Discussion

