

THANK YOU
FOR JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CONNECT PARTY

Sunday, May 27th at 5pm

All are welcome to our Connect Party, designed to help you build relationships with other people who attend, or are new to Element, as well as get to know some of Element's leadership. Light appetizers and desserts will be provided.
Email connect@ourelement.org to RSVP.

MEN'S MB2 GOKARTING

May 19th

Sign up for the Men's GoKarting in LA.
Details at the Welcome Center.

JOIN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Stay up to date in your inbox!

Sign up at ourelement.org or email connect@ourelement.org and say, "Join mailing list"



COUNTER-CULTURE PART 2

Today's Verses:

Proverbs 1:2-5
Acts 17:6

1 Peter 3:15
Genesis 1:28
Philippians 3:7-9

1 Corinthians
1:26-31



ELEMENT
christian church

www.ourelement.org/proverbs

COUNTER-CULTURE PART 2

We just started a new series to take us through the summer that will look at various ideas through the book of Proverbs. We are calling this series Counter Culture, not because we want to be contrary or angry about our culture, but we want to be agents for positive change that centers on the person of Jesus. We want to turn the world right-side up in how we live and love one another.

Last week we talked about the difference between knowledge (which can come fast) and wisdom (which can come very slowly). Being a people who bring about a culture of hope, life, healing, and redemption centered in Jesus can be a slow process, but we move steadily forward in the grace of Jesus to see it happen. When Jesus saves us, we still stumble and fall, but we can use those places of failure to begin to grow in wisdom. God overcomes our folly and He will lead us into wisdom. He is the one who gives us eternal life so we must look to Him to know what that life should look like.

In Proverbs there are no personal names given to people, instead there are categories and identities. There is the liar, the sluggard, the fool, the harlot, the drunkard, the glutton, and many others; it is important to remember that these are categories, but if conviction comes we should ask what God is wanting to tell us. In Proverbs there is also the noble wife, lady wisdom, the friend, the father, the son, and many other positive categories. It is good to embrace these things because our culture hates that the scriptures call things black and white, but these categories are here to show us that we can start as one thing and be remade and renamed by Jesus. In a God glorifying culture all things can be redeemed.

The truth is, though sin makes bringing about a God-loving culture difficult, it is still what we are called to do. It will take time, effort, energy and submission to what God wants to do in and through us. What God calls us to be from Proverbs is a redeemed people, centered on the gospel, with God-fearing hearts who practically live Scriptural wisdom in humility.

Introduction

Collectively seeking God, trusting His grace, and living in His wisdom is how we will birth this new culture around us. We need to look beyond where we are as church, as a culture, and by God's grace see where we need to be.

Discussion Key

Red – Easy level, not much intimacy

Blue – Intended to dig a bit deeper

Black – Designed to create deeper conversation

Discussion

What is the best thing about American culture?

What is the thing you wish was different about our culture?

Explanation

What is good knowledge vs bad knowledge? Give some examples.

Do you view work as good or bad? What shapes that view?

How has taking care of things in your life (home, pets, children, spouse) shaped you into who you are today?

Application Read Proverbs 1:2-5

In what areas do you think you already have enough knowledge, and are simply afraid to live out what you know?

What things confuse you about the Scriptures?

What things do you refuse to trust God for in your life?

Have you ever blamed someone else for your own sin? When and how?

Mission – Read Genesis 50:20

How could we live in our culture as a people who respect and love the image and likeness of God?

How can we bless others to show that we have first been blessed?

How can we do this without coming across as condescending or better than others?