

# youth & culture



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session I

## a story



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session I

## Is there such a thing as 'youth culture'?



Discuss

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## understanding 'culture'

*"The complex structuring of customs and the assumptions that underlie them in terms of which people govern their lives."*

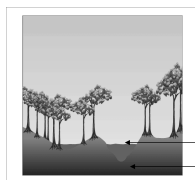
Charles Kraft



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## the 'river' of culture



Surface

Deep

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## surface signs of 'youth culture'



what are some surface level cultural expressions in young people?

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## surface signs of 'youth culture'

- clothing
- music
- technology
- cafes / places
- language
- toys
- TV shows
- experiences



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## 3 forces shaping young people

### 1. post-modernity



- demise of meta-narrative
- increased relativism
- suspicion of authority
- knowledge intuited
- 'nihilism with a smile ☺'

'what is truth?'

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## 3 forces shaping young people

### 2. consumerism



- identity
- purpose
- expectation of delivery
- expectation of control
- a competing religion?
- immediacy

'i shop therefore i am'

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## 3 forces shaping young people

### 3. suburban life



- comfortable
- secure
- aspirational
- risk averse
- privatopia

'what a community should be'

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## so what?



What will be the combined effect of these 3 forces on young people and how will it affect how we do youth ministry?

Discuss

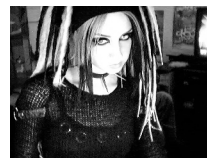
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## responding to culture

Acts 17

What can we learn?




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## responding to culture


- first observed
- two places of engagement
- invited to aeropagus
- clear of his message
- affirms spirituality present in athenians
- refers to their own stories
- corrects
- response mixed



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## discipling church kids in this culture



shield ← → immerse

Or...


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## are we the pure people?

*"Why do we insist that we're the "pure people" offering a "pure culture"? Why do we insist on protecting, insulating, and inoculating ourselves against a pagan world? Why do we think we can do so in the first place? Let the world be the world and let's just be part of it – let's stop moaning about it and get into it."*

Mark Driscoll Mars Hill Seattle



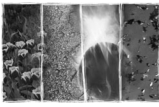
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## in but not of?

"Jesus said he wanted us to be in the world but not of it. The problem is that we have succeeded in neither. We are not in the world, but instead find ourselves in a church subculture removed from it. And inside that subculture we have become worldly."


Jim Thwaites Renegotiating the Church Contract P.96



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## engaged but distinct




John 17: 13I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

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## or a parallel universe?



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## contextualised mission



"the word became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood"

John 1:14

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## C 1- C 6

List as many youth sub-cultures as you can...



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session III

## incarnational youth mission

choose a sub-cultural group and discuss what it may look like for you to do contextualised mission among them.

- where would the entry points be?
- points of agreement?
- points of conflict?
- what might church look like for this group?

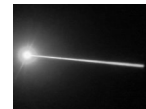


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## laser learning

- what has been significant for you from tonight?
- what do you need to pay attention to?
- what disturbed you?
- what gave you hope?
- what did you disagree with?



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