

# A Practical Guide to Culture

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## Ch. 6-7

### Part 2: Current culture issues: obvious issues and less obvious trends

Ch. 4: information age, noise vs. truth

Ch. 5: identity as human beings

Ch. 6: relational identity, community

Ch. 7: extended adolescence

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讨论：解药

1. 要承担责任
2. 多读圣经，参加教会
3. 不知道
4. 自己多思考；群体

Q: 为什么7B 中 Virtue 的培育是正确  
建立我们 Identity 的“解药”？

讨论问题：

- What are my loves?
- What are my longings?
- What are my loyalties?
- What are my labors?
- What are my liturgies(崇拜order of worship)?

Q1: 从哪里获取信息 (passive and proactive) ? 哪类信息?

Q2: 如何think/process them?

Q3: 必须有出口：交流；教学；使用

这些问题看起来是一个基督徒在属灵生命成长过程中需要不断省察、改变、评估的领域。在这个过程中一个学习/讨论/实践环境非常重要。请大家思考：

1) 成人们(自己+群体)是否有一个学习/讨论/实践环境，而且愿意触及实践 issues;

2) (如果你有孩子) 在自己家里，是否与孩子们有一个学习/讨论/实践环境。

3) 如果对以上的两个问题回答是YES，这些环境是怎样帮助到你的。如果回答是NO，可以怎样尝试开始建立这样的环境？

## Chapter 6 Being Alone Together

### **How our technology shapes us**

Life today is lived more indirectly than directly. (Online, people could be whoever they want to be, not bound by gender, age, or physical, ethnic, and geographic limitations.)

Consequence:

**First we lose touch with our world.** (eg. busy taking photos and videos in a trip)

## Chapter 6

Second, **we lose touch with one another.**

- many in the emerging generation struggle to make eye contact and can't understand nonverbal communication.
- Online life challenges our willingness and ability to be honest and vulnerable with others. (we don't struggle, we posture)  
Social media fosters a false sense of intimacy and connection with others

Third **we lose touch with ourselves:**

- we lose touch with ourselves when we lose touch with others. (curators of our own online museums, social media projection)
- False impression that we can separate who we are into public and private realms (online sins under different identities)

## **The lies technology teaches us**

1. I am the center of my own universe (teen's world separate from adult world, and they separate from each other)
2. I deserve to be happy all the time (the best life is one that is faster, easier and on their own terms)
3. I must have choice
  - Always be looking for the next better thing
  - Addiction to choice leads to ungratefulness
1. I am my own authority (this is our world, not God's. Practical atheism)
2. Information is all I need, not teachers.

## **Helping kids avoid being alone together**

device-free time: the car, the dinner table, bedrooms, vacations

## Chapter 7 Castrated Geldings and Perpetual Adolescence

We became a culture where adults aspire to be adolescents, forever.

Not only are people leaving adolescence later than ever; they're entering it earlier than ever. (preteens)

**The perfect storm:** Additional factors have greater consequences than usual for perpetual adolescence(永远不长大) .

1. Kids are exposed at earlier and earlier ages to things like romance, graphic sexuality and gratuitous violence.
2. Young people are delaying marriage
3. Perpetual adolescents live in a culture where robust moral concepts like sin, moral responsibility, and virtue have been abandoned.

## Chapter 7

### **Virtue as an antidote for perpetual adolescence**

Common substitute for virtue: rules, motivation (emotionally charged moment, incentive)

**Virtue:** Ethical habits aren't passively formed or maintained. We must be intentional in fostering and cultivating the right sort.

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A proper love of God shapes all of our other loves, including our love of other people.

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- **What are my longings?**

Longings are among the most powerful assets humans have, we must vigilantly guard them.

- **What are my loyalties?**

Our loyalties are tested each day by things that attempt to pull our hearts away from him.

- **What are my labors?**

God created humans with the capacity to make something of the world. Work matters because it's an expression of worship.

- **What are my liturgies(崇拜order of worship)?**

花时间怀着谦卑的心在神面前就这几个问题进行省察、请他人评估，[做出改变的计划](#)



## About **cultivating virtue**:

1. Knowing right from wrong is not enough  
The Christian vision is more than just how to avoid evil. The youth (and us) need to know what to live for.
1. To be a virtuous person, one must **do virtuous things**. It must be strengthened like a muscle.
2. We must practice **repentance**.
  - Repentance is the gift of God to sinful people that allows us to walk away from our sin and bad choices as new creations
  - Repentance is a moral workout: we are far more likely to repeat sins we've hidden than those we've confronted and take to God for forgiveness