

A Practical Guide to Culture

Chapter 2 and 3

Outline of the book

- Part 1 **Why Culture Matters**

provides a framework of culture for Christians.

- Part 2 **A Read of the Cultural Waters**

focuses on those powerful yet subtle undercurrents of our culture that often go unnoticed.

- Part 3 **Pounding Cultural Waves**

each chapter focuses on a singular cultural issue.

- Part 4 **Christian Worldview Essentials**

contains four shorter chapters on topics that are “Christian worldview essentials”

Review of Chapter 1

- What culture is
 - What people have cultivated
 - Reflection of their worldviews
- How culture works and what it does to us
 - Internalization vs externalization
- What culture is made of
 - Ideas
 - Means (artifacts)
 - Champions
 - Institutions

Chapter 2: Keeping the Moment and the Story Straight

No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a Story ... [and] the best thing about this Story is— it's true.

Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

Chapter 2

基督徒面对文化常提的问题

- Where should I draw the line?
 - Asking “Where do I draw the line?”— called the line approach to culture— is too simplistic to be helpful.
 - Line drawing is a reaction to the cultural moment, not a firm grounding in the Christian Story.
- Have we lost the culture?
 - If we despair for our cultural moment, we’ll lose sight of our responsibility for the culture.
 - Throughout history, Christians have found themselves in the midst of cultural breakdowns, many far worse than the one we’re in today. In those moments, Christians have been forces of restoration, hope, and redemption in ways that saved lives, both physically and spiritually.

Chapter 2

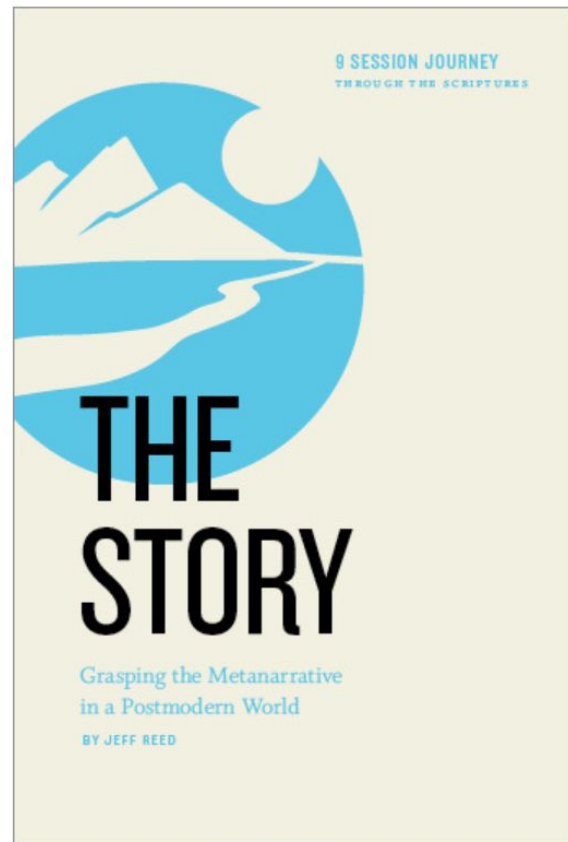
Big Story

- Granted, the Scriptures don't give specific details about everything, but they do provide the **overarching Story of the world, humanity, and history**. They tell us where everything came from, including us, and where everything is going, including us.
- Bible is more than a book of morality and religion. Fundamentally, it's a **narrative**. It tells the Story of the world, from the creation to the new creation.
- There are four chapters in the Story: **creation, fall, redemption, restoration** (CFRR)
- A better first question: what is our salvation *for*?

Chapter 2

The Story

- 圣约：亚伯拉罕、摩西、大卫、新约
- 国度：以色列、教会
- 创12:1-3 耶和華對亞伯蘭說：你要離開本地、本族、父家，往我所要指示你的地去。我必叫你成為大國。我必賜福給你，叫你的名為大；**你也要叫別人得福**。為你祝福的，我必賜福與他；那咒詛你的，我必咒詛他。**地上的萬族都要因你得福**。



Chapter 3: A Vision of Success

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Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

Chapter 3

Called for the World, Not from It

- Christians love to talk about how Christ has saved us *from* sin and judgment *to* righteousness and eternal life with God. But what is our salvation *for*?
- This world is clearly a broken place. But it's not a bad place...Though fallen, God's creation still proclaims His grandeur, kindness, and goodness. And human activity, such as building, growing, selling, inventing, cleaning, or any other work we do, should be seen as God's work.
- John 17:14-15 我已將你的道賜給他們。世界又恨他們；因為他們不屬世界，正如我不屬世界一樣。我不求你叫他們離開世界，只求你保守他們脫離那惡者（或作：脫離罪惡）。

Chapter 3

- Jer 29: 4-7 信上說：萬軍之耶和華—以色列的神對一切被擄去的（就是我使他們從耶路撒冷被擄到巴比倫的人）如此說：你們要蓋造房屋，住在其中；栽種田園，吃其中所產的；娶妻生兒女，為你們的兒子娶妻，使你們的女兒嫁人，生兒養女。在那里生養眾多，不致減少。我所使你們被擄到的那城，你們要為那城求平安，為那城禱告耶和華；因為那城得平安，你們也隨著得平安。
- ... just as God intended His image bearers to bring life to the world by ruling over it as He would, He intends redeemed humans to join His work in bringing new life to the world.

Chapter 3

Called to our times, not another

- Acts 17: 26-28 他從一本(有古卷作血脈)造出萬族的人，住在全地上，並且預先定準他們的年限和所住的疆界，要叫他們尋求神，或者可以揣摩而得，其實他離我們各人不遠；我們生活、動作、存留，都在乎他。
- In short, we cannot escape our cultural moment, even if we try.
- Be encouraged, Christian, that we aren't the first Christ followers to face a difficult, or even seemingly hopeless, cultural moment.
- There's still much good that can be done... to steward the local culture we can influence— like families, churches, community groups, Little League teams, and city councils. These places matter too.

Chapter 3

In the World but Not of It

- We often think of compromise when it comes to beliefs and behaviors, but a particularly subtle temptation is to compromise in our methods. It's tempting to run our businesses, grow our churches, and pursue wealth through an end-justifies-the-means way of thinking.
- “Moralistic therapeutic deism”-- faith is about being nice and happy and believing that God is always there to help them when they need it.
- Our agenda for the next generation must be whole-life formation, intentionally countering the dominant cultural vision of what life is about. We must make sure our kids understand Christian faith as more than a set of beliefs and behaviors. Instead, they need to know that **a competing vision of life demands their deepest allegiance and grounds their identity.**

Discussion

- 你对文化持什么态度？是倾向于逃离文化还是向文化投降？表现有哪些？原因是什么？
- 从大故事的角度看，你今天所处的时代，区域和族群处于什么位置？我们的呼召和责任是什么？

Other issues:

- 选择文化中的一种现象，描述大故事的四部分如何在其中体现。从中你得到哪些洞见？

Choose something in culture (e.g., education, movies, law, technology, marriage) and walk it through each chapter of the Story. What biblical insights are gained when you think about this topic from that perspective?

- 你是易于逃离文化还是向文化投降？表现有哪些？原因是什么？
Are you more tempted to withdraw from culture or capitulate to it? In what ways?

- 你能想到哪些基督徒对文化产生积极影响的例子，甚至是在一个很黑暗的时代？

What examples can you think of in which Christians have positively impacted culture, even during a very dark time?