

- Believers will face false prophets/teachers because there are quite a few in the world. Therefore, it is important to have a way to test which teachers and leaders are from God.

Biblical Principle: Believers are to compare what they hear to the basic truths of the gospel HUA

?**Question:** How do you test? (4 columns)

DO | What are you going to do about it?

Matt 16:26

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

- Corporate America’s desire to build its brand has moved many companies to engage in virtual signaling- show of support through advertisement and policies that lean toward the LGBTQ+ community.
 - God has said that he will meet your needs if you ask for his help and maintain your integrity. You don’t have to be dishonest or immoral to get ahead. You don’t have to get ahead—period! You only need to choose to be obedient day by day. God sees your heart and your actions, and he will bless you when you choose to honor him in your financial decisions.
 - One needs to be willing to give up everything in order to be a follower of Jesus Christ. There is nothing more valuable than a person’s soul. To trade that away is the epitome of foolishness. **When a person chooses to embrace this world instead of heaven, he is forfeiting his soul.** If a person rejects Christ for the sake of *anything* in this life, he will lose his soul
 - **Biblical Principle:** Even the highest corporate honors will not earn entrance to heaven, evaluate all your decisions from an eternal perspective. HUA
- ?**Question:?** Do your decisions have eternal integrity at home and work?
- Application:** Audit movies and shows you watch with your wife.

Stories from the Field

There is a Gathering in the Engines of the Culture. Culture is a product of a vast array of influences including language, traditions and fundamental worldviews. The main drivers of cultural production are the crafters of cultural media. They influence the entertainment we watch, the media coverage we see, the technologies we use, and the education that shapes the minds of our young. And, they now have become openly political!

Entertainment drives the culture through what we watch, read and listen to, as it is sending moral messages. Movie stars and directors have become agents of the moral revolution – they create cinematic experiences designed for moral persuasion. *As Christians we need to be very aware of the messages being sent and careful about the narrative we allow into our minds and hearts AND HOMES.*

Corporate America’s desire to build its brand has moved many companies to engage in virtual signaling- show of support through advertisement and policies that lean toward the LGBTQ+ community. They believe they must promote this kind of moral messaging if they want credibility and brand traction with young Americans.

Social Media companies are now wrestling with the intersection of free speech and hate speech. Conservative voices are being banned. Conservative is defined as: a commitment to conserve the long-standing institutions and traditions that must be protected and conserved because they are essential to human happiness, health and flourishing. These company “control officers” are generally liberal! **They have no legal obligation to protect free speech, they can set their own policies and practices. Social media controls the social capital around the world.**



Men of Valor

Gathering Storm #8

Biblical Manhood: To love and follow Jesus by being Men of the Word and Men of Prayer while Accepting Accountability, Taking Responsibility, Leading Intentionally, Persevering through Adversity in their domain to make God Known

Facebook has transitioned allowing users to connect socially to a provider of content and information, whereby, it produces, edits and manages its own content. **It is threatening free speech, especially when biblical world view is at odds with the secular agenda.**

Colleges and Universities are also shaping the culture. They have captive audiences of young people and see their jobs as agents of cultural change. The secularization of those educational institutions is an accomplished fact. Their agenda is to separate students from their Christian beliefs and their intellectual and moral commitments. **Parents must not be naive to the ideological indoctrination and intellectual condescension that is in far too many classrooms. Parents must ensure that their kids get the Christian Worldview, alongside the worldview!!**

Talk about it:

Question for contemplation and discussion: What did God enlighten to you in the text?

KNOW | What does God want us to know

1 Cor 5:6-8

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?⁷ Get rid of the old are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- As Christians we need to be very aware of the messages being sent and careful about the narrative we allow into our minds and hearts. Jesus was warning against mixing imperfect human ideas with God's truth. The Culture is a mixing bowl!

- Once a year Israel was commanded that they had to get rid of any unleavened dough in their midst. Now I don't know if they realized it so much, but this was an important part of keeping the people of God healthy. This isn't this nice clean piece of yeast that just made such a lovely smelling and yummy piece of bread. This was a bacteria laden thing and the only way is, as David Parlor writes, "to break the chain of baking bacteria-laden bread" was to ditch the whole batch and start fresh. What Paul is saying is that sin is like leaven; it's unclean and corrupting. Here's the thing, it just takes a little bit of sin to leaven the whole lump. He's saying these sins you don't think are a big deal, the ones you don't worry about; guess what, they have a leavening effect in your life. A little bit of corruption leavens your whole life. Think about the cultural decision today that impact our way of life: abortion, marriage...
Biblical Principle. Letting sin exist in the church affects all members. We need to be intolerant of the cultural sins influence on us and in the church.

? **Question:** What sin is leavening itself in your life

BE | How does God want us to become more like Him?

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

- **Their agenda is to separate students from their Christian beliefs and their intellectual and moral commitments.** Test everything.
- The use of the term "spirit," in this case, is not a reference to ghosts, demons, or other creatures. **Rather, this is a reference to the attitude and approach of a particular teacher.** In reality, truth only comes from the Holy Spirit, everything else comes from evil. There is no such thing as a "friendly ghost," as pop culture often suggests.