

A sermon series about tackling
the tough questions about faith.

Engagement of Culture Credibility of the Bible The Confusion of Sexuality



Existence of God

Engagement of Culture

Credibility of the Bible

The

A sermon series about tackling
the tough questions about faith.

ENGAGEMENT OF CULTURE

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1.** With the rapid evolution of our world, how is God still relevant?
- 2.** Do we still follow the Old Testament laws? Are they outdated? How do we differentiate when a cultural text is relevant to the ancient times vs. a timeless commandment?
- 3.** How do we reconcile wanting to obey the Bible, while also respecting certain cultural practices (e.g. incense, praying to ancestors, etc.)?
- 4.** How involved should the Church be in real societal issues such as politics, poverty, social justice, mental health, and so on?
- 5.** How do we share the gospel in this culture where tolerance is highly encouraged? (Everyone can have their own views and there is no one single version of truth)

Irish Culture



Gundestrup Cauldron



Ardagh Chalice



**GOD
COMPLETELY
TRANSFORMED
PRE-MODERN
CULTURES**

IS GOD STILL
RELEVANT TO
OUR CULTURE
TODAY?

Modernity & Postmodernity

Modernity

- 1. Rationalisation**
- 2. Objectivity**
- 3. Progress**

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- 1. Rationalisation**
- 2. Objectivity**
- 3. Progress**

Postmodernity

- 1. Skepticism**
- 2. Subjectivity**
- 3. Pleasure**

1. Understand God's Heart and Intention

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
² **And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great**, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed**

Genesis 12:1-3

² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ **And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**

Genesis 15:2-6

⁷ And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Genesis 15:7-11

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Genesis 15:12-16

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **18** On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, **19** the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, **20** the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, **21** the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

Genesis 15:17-21

Our God is a God who...

- 1. Gives**
- 2. Blesses**
- 3. Protects**
- 4. Sacrifices**

What He wants is for us to trust Him

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, “**Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children.** Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

Genesis 16:1-3

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ **Say you are my sister**, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.”

Genesis 12:10-13

What He wants is us to trust Him. Yet we...

- Doubt His character - Skepticism
- Define our way - Subjectivity
- Serve our desires - Pleasure

- 1. Understand God's Heart and Intention**
- 2. Acknowledge the Human Fallen Condition**

- 1. Understand God's Heart and Intention**
- 2. Acknowledge the Human Fallen Condition**
- 3. Allow the Transformation of the Gospel**

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, **“Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”** ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:1-8

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Genesis 22:9-14

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.**

2 Corinthians 5:17-20