

How to *Change* our Culture for the Better... God has Something to Say

1. We should **obey God's command** regarding **bearing false witness** against our **neighbor**. (Exodus 20:16)

"You shall **not bear a false report**; do not join your hand with a **wicked man** to be a **malicious witness**." (Exodus 23:1)

There are **six things** which the **LORD hates**,
Yes, **seven** which are an **abomination to Him**:
Haughty **eyes**, a **lying tongue**,
And **hands** that shed **innocent blood**,
A **heart** that devises **wicked plans**,
Feet that run rapidly to **evil**,
A **false witness** who utters **lies**,
And one who **spreads strife** among **brothers**. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

2. We should **condemn** and **avoid** the *sin of slander*.

You shall **not** go about as a **slanderer** among your people,
and you are not to act **against** the **life** of your **neighbor**;
I am **the LORD**. (Leviticus 19:16)

Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander**
be put away from you, along with all **malice**. (Ephesians 4:31)

3. We should **pursue** the **truth** of a matter, and **resist** those who would "*suppress* the **truth** in **unrighteousness**." (Romans 1:18)

O Lord, **who** may abide in **Your tent**?
Who may dwell on **Your holy hill**?
He who walks with **integrity**, and works **righteousness**,
And **speaks truth** in his **heart**.
He does **not slander** with his **tongue**,..(Psalm 5:1-3a)

He who speaks **truth** tells what is **right**,
But a **false witness**, **deceit**. (Proverbs 12:17)

And they sent their **disciples** to **Him (Jesus)**, along with the Herodians, saying,
"**Teacher**, we know that **You are truthful** and **teach the way of God** in **truth**,
and **defer to no one**; for **You are not partial** to any. (Matthew 22:16)

4. We must **vote in leaders** with **integrity**, and **appoint judges** who will rule **justly**.

Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people **able men** who **fear God, men of truth**, those who **hate dishonest gain**; and you shall place *these* over them as **leaders** of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. (Exodus 18:21)

'You shall do **no injustice** in judgment; you shall **not** be **partial** to the **poor** nor **defer** to the **great**, but you are to **judge** your **neighbor fairly**.' (Leviticus 19:15)

You shall **not distort justice**; you shall **not** be **partial**, and you shall **not** take **a bribe**, for a **bribe blinds** the eyes of the **wise** and **perverts** the **words** of the **righteous**.

Justice, and only justice, you shall **pursue**, that you may **live** and possess the land which the **LORD your God** is giving you. (Deuteronomy 16:19-20)

Those who **forsake the law praise the wicked**,
But those who **keep the law strive** with them.
Evil men do not understand justice,
But those who **seek the LORD understand all things**. (Proverbs 28:4-5)

5. We should **reject Prejudice** and **Bigotry** in all its forms—
Bigotry → **intolerance** toward those who hold **different opinions** from oneself.

a. **Racial Bigotry**

b. **Religious Bigotry**

c. **Political Bigotry**

But the **LORD** said to **Samuel**,
"Do **not** look at his **appearance** or at the height of his stature,
because I have **rejected him**; for **God** sees **not** as **man** sees,
for **man** looks at the **outward appearance**,
but the **LORD** looks at the **heart**." (1 Samuel 16:7)

"Whoever sheds **man's blood, by man his blood** shall be **shed**,
For in the **image of God He made man**." (Genesis 9:6)

And **he (Peter)** said to **them**, "You yourselves know how **unlawful** it is
for a man who is **a Jew** to **associate** with a **foreigner** or to visit him;
and yet **God** has shown me that I should **not**
call **any man unholy** or **unclean**. (Acts 10:28)

With it (**our tongues**) we **bless our Lord** and **Father**, and with it
we **curse men**, who have been **made** in the **likeness of God**; (James 3:9)

→ Though we may **disagree strongly** with the **beliefs** and **views** of many
in our culture, we are to **respect the value** of **every person**,
born and **unborn**, for we were **all made** in the "**likeness of God**."

6. We should *avoid* “**caving**” to the **anger** and **demands** of the **mob**.

“You shall **not** bear a **false report**; do **not** join your hand with a **wicked man** to be a **malicious witness**. You shall **not follow** the **masses** in doing **evil**, nor shall you **testify** in a **dispute** so as to **turn aside** after a **multitude** in order to **pervert justice**...” (Exodus 23:1-2)

So **Pilate**, wishing to **satisfy the mob**, set **Bar-Abba** free for them; but he had **Yeshua whipped** and then **handed him over** to be **executed** on the **stake**. (Mark 15:15)

7. We should **not** “**rush to judgment**”, for **all men** will one day be **accountable** for their **words** and **deeds** before a **holy God**.

A **false witness** will **not** go **unpunished**,
And he who **tells lies** will **not** escape. (Proverbs 19:5)

But I tell you that **every careless word** that **people speak**, they shall give **an accounting** for it in the **day of judgment**. (Matthew 12:36)

8. We should **strive** to **control** the **divisive** and **destructive power** of our **tongues**.

With *his* **mouth** the **godless man** **destroys** his **neighbor**,
But through **knowledge** the **righteous** will be **delivered**. (Proverbs 11:9)

The **heart** of the **righteous** **ponders** *how* to **answer**,
But the **mouth** of the **wicked** **pours out** **evil things**. (Proverbs 15:28)

So also the **tongue** is a **small part** of the body, and *yet* it **boasts** of **great things**.
See how great a **forest** is **set aflame** by such a **small fire**!

And the **tongue** is a **fire**, the **very world of iniquity**;
the **tongue** is set among our **members** as that which **defiles** the **entire body**,
and sets on **fire** the **course** of **our life**, and is set on **fire** by **hell**. (James 3:5-6)

9. When we **communicate**, we should “**speak the truth in love**,” and strive for **knowledge** and **understanding** in **all matters**, so that our **differences** and **disagreements** among us **may be resolved peacefully** and **respectfully**.

...but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to **grow up**
in all **aspects** into **Him** who is the head, **even Messiah**...

Let **no unwholesome word** proceed from **your mouth**,
but only such a **word** as is **good** for **edification** according to the need
of the moment, so that it will give **grace** to those who **hear**.
(Ephesians 4:15, 29)

The **tongue** of the **wise** makes **knowledge** **acceptable**,
But the **mouth of fools** spouts **folly**. (Proverbs 15:2)

The **heart** of the **wise** *instructs* his **mouth**
And adds **persuasiveness** to his **lips**. (Proverbs 16:23)

10. We should **recognize** the **need**, and have *respect* for **governing authorities**, which have been **established** to **maintain law** and **order** for the **protection** and **welfare** of **human society**.

Every person is to be in **subjection** to the **governing authorities**.
For there is **no authority** except from **God**,
and those which exist are **established by God**.
Therefore whoever **resists authority** has **opposed** the **ordinance of God**;

For **rulers** are **not** a cause of **fear** for **good behavior**, but for **evil**.
Do you want to have **no fear** of **authority**? **Do** what is **good**
and you will have **praise** from the same;..(Romans 13:1-3)

11. We should have as our **priority** to **obey** the “**royal law**” established by **God** to **love our neighbor** as **ourselves**.

You shall **not take vengeance**, nor **bear any grudge**
against the **sons of your people**, but you shall
love your neighbor as yourself; **I am the LORD**. (Leviticus 19:8)

If, however, you are fulfilling the **royal law** according to the **Scripture**,
“YOU SHALL **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**,” you are **doing well**. (James 2:8)

12. We should promote **humility** and **shun *self-righteousness***. We should **humbly acknowledge** our **need** for the **grace, wisdom, and guidance of God**, and be **thankful** for **His provision** for our nation; a nation where we can aspire to **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**.

If I **shut up** the heavens so that there is **no rain**,..
and **My people** who are called by **My name** **humble themselves**
and **pray** and **seek My face** and ***turn*** from their **wicked ways**,
then I will **hear** from **heaven**, will **forgive their sin**
and will **heal their land**. (II Chronicles 7:13a, 14)
Know that **the LORD Himself is God**;
It is **He** who has **made us**, and **not we ourselves**;
We are His people and the **sheep of His pasture**.

Enter **His gates** with **thanksgiving** and **His courts** with **praise**.
Give **thanks** to Him, **bless His name**.
For the **LORD is good**; **His lovingkindness is everlasting**
And **His faithfulness to all generations**. (Psalm 100:3-5)

Closing Exhortation