**Exton Ladies Day Lecture ; March 2, 2019; *Godly Individual and Family Culture***

**Handout:** Pretest – please work on this before we begin

**Intro:**

*If you have a life, you have a culture, and it is our task to learn to make it a godly culture.*

**Definition**:

**Culture** [**noun**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noun)

cul·​ture | \ ˈkəl-chər  \

**Definition of *culture*; (Entry 1 of 2)**

**1a:**the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group *also* **:**the characteristic features of everyday existence (such as diversions or a way of life) shared by people in a place or time

**b:**the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization

**c:**the set of values, [conventions](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/convention), or social practices associated with a particular field, activity, or societal characteristic

**d:**the [integrated](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/integrate) pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations

**2a:**enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and [aesthetic](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/aesthetic#h1) training

**b:**acquaintance with and taste in fine arts, humanities, and broad aspects of science as distinguished from vocational and technical skills

**3:**the act or process of cultivating living material (such as bacteria or viruses) in prepared nutrient [media](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/medium#h1) *also* **:**a product of such cultivation

**5:**the act of developing the intellectual and moral [faculties](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faculty) especially by education

**6:**expert care and training

**Here are some things I learn** about the concept of culture from the definition:

--although group is made of unique individuals, culture is set of *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize it

--culture *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* and *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

--culture grows by being *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*; because it is shared, each member influences culture and is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by it

--culture is identified by what people do *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* – their habits and usual behavior; it is the characteristics of their *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*; place and time (environment) is a factor

--culture is an *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* pattern transmitted to succeeding generations by expert *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *and* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**A Profile of Two Families:**

The Smiths eat organic, are sentimental over vintage and time-worn things, value lots of togetherness, and laugh and joke as much as possible.

The Millers are efficient. They work hard and play hard. They love to travel together to new places, appreciate forward-thinking design, and are early adopters of technology.

**This-or-That Pre-Lecture Quiz**

--Important: No moral value attached almost at all to these, but our assumptions and our proclivities often cause us to judge others where it need not be done. Example:

So: a characteristic can usually be expressed in both a positive or negative way – very important to keep in mind about ourselves, our family members, and others!

--Can be one way for some things and another for others.

--Not everyone in family is same, but the group tends one way

--You can be one way but want to be another – that’s growth and change!

**My Family Culture** handout

**The Dark Side of Family Culture** Handout

So many parts of our personalities and our characteristics are God-gifted and Satan-twisted. Examples:

**Challenging My Assumptions – What God Actually Esteems, What He Doesn’t Care About, and What He is Actively Against**

Example: *Esteeming Excellence*

What God actually esteems:

What God says about excellent results:

What we assume:

What an overemphasis of excellence can become:

*How can that happen?*

**The Funny Way We Get Turned Around in Our Values**

Rom. 1:18 - 2:10

Sexual immorality

Wickedness

Covetous

Malicious

Envy

Murder

Strife

Deceit

Evil minds

Whisperers/backbiters

Inventors of evil things

Disobedient to parents

Undiscerning

Untrustworthy

Unloving

Unforgiving

Unmerciful

**Solutions**:

Develop a godly culture with *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*. (Matt. 7:13-14)

1. It all has to do with how we walk – do a personal study of walking in God’s Word.

2. Counterbalance: do’s-and-don’t’s lists like Eph. 5, Rom. 12, Col. 3-4 and other places

**Sum-up passage**: *Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

This is how we develop godly culture in ourselves and in our families:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yourself to God to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mind into someone whose life shows God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will.