



COUNTER-CULTURE: Biblical Truth in a Confused World

Topic: Thinking Christianly

God is SOVEREIGN

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 27, 2025

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- How has the Bible influenced or changed your thinking about something?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

- What stuck out to you from the sermon?
- Read [John 8:31-32; 43-47](#). How has your thinking been influenced by the world instead of by God? What are the benefits of being influenced by Jesus? How do we tap into them?
- Read [Romans 8:5-8](#) in a few different versions. As you read, make two lists—one of the ways to describe living in “the flesh” and one to describe living in “the Spirit.” Read over those lists again. In your own words, contrast “the flesh” (worldliness) vs “the Spirit” (godliness).
- Read [2 Corinthians 10:5](#); [Colossians 2:8](#); [Ephesians 4:14-15](#). How do these verses clarify the benefit of thinking Christianly?

God's Story Tool: Review the [God's Story Tool](#). Consider printing either the one-page summary or the half-sheet overview for each person so they have it in front of them for the remaining discussion. Both are found in the [Dream Disciple Toolkit](#). You can also [watch this 7-minute overview video](#) that explains each part of God's Story.

The following exercise is a way to help your group develop *gospel fluency*. This means helping people incorporate the whole story of scripture as a lens to view their entire lives, guiding them to flex the muscle to “think Christianly.” Each week in this series, we will return and prompt a few questions to develop gospel fluency around the topics.

- Look at each piece of the tool separately. Ask the following questions about them.
 - o How does (Creation, Fall, etc) influence my identity?
 - o How does (Creation, Fall, etc.) influence how I view brokenness?
 - o How does (Creation, Fall, etc) influence how I view forgiveness?
 - o How does (Creation, Fall, etc.) influence how I live my life?
 - o How does (Creation, Fall, etc) influence the challenges I face in life?



GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you about how you need to grow in thinking Christianly?
- What are you going to do about it? Write a practical statement that you can practice throughout this series. "I will..."
- Share your statements with each other.

Pray [Romans 12:2](#) over the group.

Find the "Thinking Christianly: A Counter-Culture Worldview" reading plan on YouVersion or at whoisgrace.com/read/.



COUNTER-CULTURE: Biblical Truth in a Confused World

Topic: Immigration and Refugees

God is JUST

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 4, 2025

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Share about someone you know with a different country of origin. What is a struggle/ challenge that you have in common? What challenges do they face that are unfamiliar to you?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

- Read [Exodus 22:21](#); [Numbers 15:14-16](#); [Deuteronomy 10:12-20](#) and [Deuteronomy 27:19](#).
 - o What guidelines do these passages provide for God's people for interacting with and responding to immigrants (sojourners, foreigners)?
 - o What do they reveal about God's heart for sojourners?
- Read [Philippians 3:18-21](#); [Ephesians 2:19](#); [Hebrews 11:13-16](#); [1 Peter 2:11-17](#).
 - o What do the Scriptures say about a Christian's primary citizenship status? How can/should this impact our perspective and interaction with people everywhere we live, work, learn, and play?
 - o How can/should it impact our responses to and interactions with authority structures?
- Read [Matthew 22: 35-40](#); [Luke 10:29-37](#); [Hebrews 13:1-2](#).
 - o How does Jesus define 'neighbor'? How does 'hospitality' to strangers fulfill God's greatest commandments?
- Read [Micah 6:1-8](#). Who is the LORD speaking to in this passage? What do verses 4-5 highlight for His audience?
- Re-read verse 8. In this passage, the Hebrew term "*mishpat*," or justice, focuses on action, while "*hesed*," or mercy, concerns the motive behind the action. How does the combination of these two things balance our perspectives and responses? How did Jesus illustrate this balance throughout His ministry? How does this apply to our conversation on immigrants and refugees?

God's Story Tool: Review the [God's Story Tool](#). The following exercise is a way to help your group develop gospel fluency. This means helping people incorporate the whole story of scripture as a lens to view their entire lives, guiding them to flex the muscle to "think Christianly." Each week in this series, we will return and prompt a few questions to develop gospel fluency in the topics.



- Look at each piece of the tool separately. Ask the following questions about them.
 - o How does Creation inform the value of the life of an immigrant or refugee?
 - o How does the Fall mess up God's design for immigrants/refugees? (both on our side and theirs)
 - o How does the fact that Jesus rescued us (Redemption) influence the views we have about the spiritual needs of immigrants/refugees?
 - o Now that God has given us a purpose (Mission), what might our purpose be with immigrants/refugees? (Derek gave a few examples)
 - o As we look forward to Restoration, what will be true about immigrants and refugees when that time comes?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you about thinking (and acting) Christianly about immigrants/refugees?
- What are you going to do about it? Write a practical statement that can help you take the next right step. "I will..."
- Share your statements with each other.

Pray for each other to be faithful and follow through on your "I will..." statements.



COUNTER-CULTURE: Biblical Truth in a Confused World

Topic: Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change

God is CREATOR

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 11, 2025

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- What are some things or places that you love about nature? How do these encourage you to worship the Lord?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

- What stuck out to you from the sermon?
- Read [Genesis 1:26-31](#); [Genesis 2:15](#); [Psalm 19:1-2](#); [Romans 8:19-22](#); [Revelation 21:1-5](#).
 - o What do these verses teach us about Creation?
 - o What do these verses teach us about how to interact with Creation?
- What steps have you taken personally to be a good steward of the environment?
- How has this sermon challenged or changed your thinking? What next step do you want to take to better steward the environment in the spaces where you live, work, learn, and/or play?

God's Story Tool: Review the [God's Story Tool](#). The following exercise will help your group develop *gospel fluency*. This means helping people incorporate the whole story of scripture as a lens to view their entire lives, guiding them to flex the muscle to "think Christianly." Each week in this series, we will come back and prompt a few questions to develop gospel fluency around the topics.

- Look at each piece of the tool separately. Ask the following questions about them.
 - o How does Creation inform our role in stewarding the environment?
 - o How has the Fall messed up Creation and our relationship with it?
 - o What does our Redemption teach us about the possibility of Redemption for the earth?
 - o How does our Mission relate to caring for the Climate? How could good stewardship impact our ability to witness God's Story?
 - o As we look forward to Restoration, what hope do we have for the Earth?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you about thinking (and acting) Christianly about the environment/Climate?



- What are you going to do about it? Write a practical statement that can help you take the next right step. "I will..."
- Share your statements with each other.

Pray for each other to be faithful and follow through on your "I will..." statement.



COUNTER-CULTURE: Biblical Truth in a Confused World

Topic: Sexuality and Gender

God is DESIGNER

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 18, 2025

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Share something that you have designed. (art of any kind, written work, computer program, game plan, living room décor, etc.). What was the purpose/intention of your design? What is the difference between seeing your design used correctly and incorrectly?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Key Texts: [Genesis 1:26-28](#); [Ephesians 4:18-19](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3-8](#); [Psalm 139:13-18](#)

- What stuck out to you from the sermon?
- React to the big idea: True sexual wholeness comes by embracing God's design.
- Discuss these biblical principles regarding sexuality and gender:
 - o Your body matters to God.
 - o God's design reveals God's purpose for you.
 - o Your true freedom comes by adhering to God's boundaries.
 - o Your identity in Christ transcends your sexual identity.
 - o Feelings cannot be the deciding factor in right vs. wrong.
 - o Your sexual wholeness is a witness to the world.
- Read [Psalm 139:23-24](#); [Isaiah 55:8-9](#); [Mark 12:28-31](#). How does God's word shape your posture and attitude toward a tough issue like this one?

God's Story Tool: Review the [God's Story Tool](#). The following exercise is a way to help your group develop gospel fluency. This means helping people incorporate the whole story of scripture as a lens to view their whole life, guiding them to flex the muscle to "think Christianly." Each week in this series, we will come back and prompt a few questions to develop gospel fluency around the topics.

- Look at each piece of the tool separately. Ask the following questions about them.
 - o How does Creation inform our view of our bodies and sex?
 - o How did the Fall mess up our view of sexuality and gender?
 - o How does our Redemption offer forgiveness and update our identity with how it relates to our bodies and sex?



- How does the way we view our bodies and live our sexual ethics impact our Mission and witness to the gospel?
- What is our hope for the future Restoration of our bodies?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you about thinking (and acting) Christianly about sexuality and gender
- What are you going to do about it? Write a practical statement that can help you take the next right step. "I will..."
- Share your statements with each other.

Pray: Use Psalm 139:23-24 to lead your group into prayer:

God, we praise you for your design. You made us wonderfully complex, and you know us inside and out. Trust and truth are not easy to understand and grasp in this world. But we want to trust You. We want to believe You. Help our unbelief! Open our eyes to see the beauty in ourselves, each other, and all the people you have made. We long to be your flourishing image bearers, and we invite you to-
search me and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends You,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23-24 NLT)

Amen.



COUNTERCULTURE: Biblical Truth in a Confused World

Topic: Advancing Technology and Personhood

God is PERSONAL

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 25, 2025

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Which modern technological devices are the most useful for you? (examples: automated banking; dishwasher; smartwatch; Google) What work/function have these replaced?
- From a [NY Times article, 1908](#): “How far the automobile is a mere whim of fashion, and how far it meets a real need of the community, time can alone determine.”

GROW: *Engage with God’s word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Key Texts: [Genesis 2:7](#); [Genesis 11:4-6](#); [Psalm 8](#)

- What stuck out to you from the sermon?
- Discuss these biblical principles of personhood:
- Our human origins are divine. Personhood begins with God’s creative breath. ([Genesis 2:7](#); [Psalm 8](#))
- To be human is to be an animated, soul-filled body with a heart that allows us to feel and make moral, rational choices. ([Psalm 1](#))
- Humans are designed for relationships. Diversity and unity are essential aspects of our relationships with one another. ([Genesis 2:18](#))
- To be human is to be finite: limited and mortal. ([Psalm 139:16](#); [Isaiah 55:8-9](#))
- God tasks humans with sacred stewardship of his creation. Technology is meant for our good and his glory, not to allow us to become our own gods. ([Genesis 11:4-6](#))

God's Story Tool: Review the [God’s Story Tool](#). The following exercise is a way to help your group develop gospel fluency. This means helping people to incorporate the whole story of scripture as a lens to view their whole life, basically guiding them to flex the muscle to “think Christianly”. Each week in this series we will come back and prompt a few questions to develop gospel fluency around the topics.

- Look at each piece of the tool separately. Ask the following questions about them.
 - How does [Creation](#) inform our personhood and the lack of personhood in AI?
 - How does [the Fall](#) influence where we look for answers to our faults?
 - What does our need for [Redemption](#) teach us about the limits of technology?



- How is the Mission of the gospel a better story than pursuing advanced technology? How can we leverage technology for the Mission?
- As we look forward to Restoration, what will become of AI and us?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you about how to think (and act) Christianly about technology and personhood?
- What are you going to do about it? Write a practical statement that can help you take the next right step. "I will..."
- Share your statements with each other.

Pray: Use [Psalm 8](#) to lead you into a prayer of humble praise and worship to our God, who is personal.