There are 7 Centers of Influence in Culture...

In 1975, Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade, and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With a Mission, had lunch together in Colorado. God simultaneously gave each of these change agents a message to give to the other. During that same time frame Francis Schaeffer was given a similar message. That message was that if we are to impact any nation for Jesus Christ, then we would have to affect the seven centers of influence that are the pillars of any society.

About a month later the Lord showed Francis Schaeffer the same thing. In essence, God was telling these three change agents where the battlefield was. It was here where culture would be won or lost. Their assignment was to raise up change agents in the 7 centers of influence in our culture and to help a new generation of change agents understand the larger story.

Can a city or community be impacted for Christ? Can it be transformed?

The answer to those questions lies with the level of maturity of Christians in a community that is measured in love, unity and prayer. We are only what we are in the dark; all the rest is reputation. What God looks at is what we are in the dark – the imaginations of our minds; the thoughts of our heart; the habits of our bodies; these are the things that mark us in God’s sight.

**Our prayer assignment:** Pray for God to raise up agents of change to centers of culture, and through that to transform our society. Pray for Christ’s love and truth to invade our society.
We must engage the culture to influence it. The reason we don’t see more cultural change is because we have allowed the culture to silence us. Taking a stand for biblical truth is costly. We need to pray that Christians will be courageous and willing to pay the price to stand for godliness, that we will be willing to name the Name of Christ even when it may not be convenient to do so.
Cultural change is a fruit of biblical Christianity, not a goal. When we use our authority we will lose our influence. When we use our influence we will gain authority.

The seven centers of influence may be linked to Rev. 5:12: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive:

**Power – Government.** Models: Joseph, Daniel, Esther  
**Riches – Business, finance.** Model: Joseph of Arimathea. Doing God’s business God’s way in spite of the cost  
**Wisdom – Education.** Model: Ezra: Ezra 7:10  
**Strength – Family.** Model: Focus on the Family  
**Honor – Religion.** Martin Luther, Martin Luther King  
**Glory – Arts and Entertainment.** Facing the Giants, Passion of the Christ, Courageous, Fireproof  
**Blessing – the Media, or good news.** Model: Huckabee on Fox News

**Our 7 Centers initiative** is an initiative to bring Jesus’ Kingdom life into the 7 centers of influence. It is an initiative that seeks to love and serve all people on the earth into His Kingdom. We are called to model what Christ taught when He prayed that what is in heaven would be manifested on earth through a people known for their love of one another and others. That means God’s love and grace would be extended to all people.

**RECLAMING THE 7 CENTERS OF CULTURE**

Jesus, Lord Over All Domains of Influence  
(not just Lord over salvation)

1. King of Kings – the Lord of Justice  
2. Jehovah Jireh – Lord of Economics  
3. Father, Lord of the family  
4. Creator God, Lord of science & technology  
5. Living Word, Lord of communication  
6. Potter, Lord of the arts & beauty  
7. Great Teacher, Lord of education

Source: Landa Cope, OT Template

For more information on taking back each of the 7 centers of influence,  
Click here: [http://www.7culturalmountains.org/pages.asp?pageid=64123](http://www.7culturalmountains.org/pages.asp?pageid=64123)
The Gospel of the Kingdom

Oswald Chambers said, "It is not a question of being saved from hell, but in being saved in order to manifest the Son of God in our mortal flesh."¹ There would be no reason for us to remain on earth if there was not a work to be done. Why has God allowed us to receive this new birth and remain on earth? It is so that we might bring the Kingdom of God into our world—our families, our workplace, and our communities.

Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God more than 70 times in the New Testament. While salvation is part of bringing the Kingdom of God on earth, it includes much more. When Jesus came to earth, He came in order to penetrate the very kingdom of darkness with light. He came to bring healing to sickness, replace sadness with joy, and fill meaninglessness with purpose. He came to change things for the better for a world that had no hope outside of God.

Chuck Colson cites that "Genuine Christianity is more than a relationship with Jesus, as expressed in personal piety, church attendance, Bible Study, and works of charity. It is more than discipleship, more than believing a system of doctrines about God. Genuine Christianity is a way of seeing and comprehending all reality. It is a worldview."²

God wants you to bring the Kingdom of God into the territory He has given you so that His will can be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Your domain is your workplace, family, and community. When the Gospel of the Kingdom comes into a life and a community, everything in its wake is impacted.

His Kingdom Come, not just Church Attendance

In 1999 we hosted a marketplace conference in Atlanta. One of my speakers was Landa Cope. Landa is Dean of the College of Communication for Youth with a Mission University of the Nations. Landa teaches all over the world. At that time she was writing a book and she was teaching us from her notes. Today her book entitled, The Old Testament Template, addresses the issue of the failure of the Church to operate from Jesus’ paradigm of the Gospel of the Kingdom versus the Gospel of Salvation. She believes this is why we have had such little impact in the western Church.

Her opening chapter tells a story about her sitting in her living room one day watching television when a British journalist began to say that Christians believe that the more Christians there are in a community, the more that community will be affected for good. The greater the Christian presence, then the greater the benefit to the society at large.

The TV journalist went on to describe a research project that was designed to discover if this was true. He evaluated the most Christianized city in America to see how this influence worked out practically. He defined most "Christianized" as the community with the largest percentage of church attendance regularly. That city was Dallas, Texas.

He looked at various statistics and studies, including crime, safety on the streets, police enforcement, and the justice and penal system. He looked at health care, hospitals, emergency care, contagious diseases, infant mortality rate, and the distribution of caregivers. He reviewed education, equality of schools, safety, test scores and graduation statistics. Jobs, housing, and general economics were also evaluated.

Each of these categories was evaluated using racial and economic factors. Was there equity regardless of color, creed or income? And so on.

By the time the journalist host was done with the conclusions of the Dallas study, Landa was devastated. No one would want to live in a city in that condition. The crime, the decrepit social systems, the disease, the economic discrepancies, the racial injustice all disqualified this community from having an adequate quality of life. And this was the "most Christianized" city in America. Landa wanted to weep.

Martin Luther said, "A gospel that does not deal with the issues of the day is not the gospel at all."
In the 1980s, groups like the International Christian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) emerged in 1985 and began helping men and women apply the Word of God to how they worked. Work was no longer a platform for sharing the Gospel, it was now a place to bring the presence and power of God into the very way we operated our businesses.

Many other marketplace groups birthed along the same time frame, also with a focus on applying the Word of God to how individuals worked.

In the nineties we began to see a new focus emerge. This focus was on social entrepreneurship and social transformation. Groups like the Pinnacle Forum and HalfTime with Bob Buford began to promote social agendas using entrepreneurship from a Christian viewpoint to impact the culture. Marketplace Leaders was birthed in 1996. Their mission is to help men and women fulfill their purpose in and through their work life.

**Gospel of the Kingdom**

The Gospel of the Kingdom deals with all things that the cross affected including salvation and reconciliation of every area of life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' desire was for God's Kingdom to be manifested on earth. When He taught the disciples to pray, He petitioned His Heavenly Father by asking: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

While we may never see God's kingdom completely manifested on earth as it is Heaven, Jesus IS telling us that we should ask for it and to long for it. Moses was led by God not to establish a religion but a nation of people who would love, serve, and honor God. In other words, God wanted His Kingdom expressed through their lives completely.
Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done

The following comparison between attributes of the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of Salvation provides an understanding of the outworking of the two. When Jesus prayed the Lord's prayer He prayed for the manifestation of what was happening in Heaven to happen on earth. "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:9-10). His emphasis was more than salvation.

**Gospel of Salvation**

- Proclamation evangelism/salvation
- Eternal, heavenly focus, evangelistic
- Addresses only the "Soul"
- "Rapture" escape mentality
- Sacred vs. Secular - dualism
- Focuses on Transaction
- "Win the next soul"
- The model: Nigeria

**Gospel of the Kingdom**

- Soul and body Impacts all aspects of society
- Material, social, earthly, secular
- Influence through servant, godly leadership, active faith
- Focuses on the transformation of a society
- The liberating gospel influencing every area of life
- The model: Almolonga

Some research tells us that Nigeria may have as much as 60 percent of the population born again Christians. Yet, the culture has one of the greatest problems of crime and corruption of any nation in the world. That is because the Gospel of Salvation has been the primary message. Nigeria is a place where there are great evangelism campaigns, but the effect on the people has been minimal due to their failure to apply the Gospel to every area of their life.

Contrast this to Almolonga, Guatemala where 90% of the population is Christian and there are no jails because they don't need them because they have effectively applied the gospel to every aspect of their life.

Jesus said He wants to return to a mature bride; that means a vibrant church that is active on impacting our world. Let us pray for His Kingdom to come, for His will to be done in Coweta County! Let's especially focus our prayers on the 7 centers of influence in a community: government, business, education, the family, the Church, arts and entertainment, and the media, that they may come under the influence of the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

**References:**
2. Chuck Colson, How Shall we Then Live? , Tyndall House Publishers, Carol Stream, IL, 1999, p.15
4. Kingdom Principles, Myles Munroe, Destiny Image Publishers
5. (Matthew 6:10)

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