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The Destruction of High Culture

December 7, 2022



For The King - Rocky Ramsey

The most important externalized things about society are what we call in this episode "high culture". As we have switched from Christianity to the pagan atheistic society we are now, the culture that has flowed from that is disgusting. As Christians we ought to begin rebuilding these things. For The King!

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Transcript

(music) Don't think I will even ask you to make Jesus Lord of your life. That's the most posterous thing I could ever tell you to do. Jesus Christ is Lord of your life.

Whether you serve him or not, whether you bless him, curse him, hate him, or love him, he is the Lord of your life because God has given him a name that is above every name so that the name of Jesus Christ every knee shall bow and tongue confess that he is Lord. Some of you will bow out of the grace that has been given to you and others will bow because your kneecaps will be broken by the one who rules the nations with a rod of iron.

(music) And I'll not apologize for this God of the Bible.

(music) Hello, friends. Welcome to the For the King podcast where we proclaim the edicts of the king, namely and chiefly, that Yahweh reigns. I am your host, Rocky Ramsey, and I am joined this week with my brother in Christ, Carter Kellum.

Hello, Carter. Welcome. Hello.

Thanks for having me on the podcast. There he is. So Carter's been on here before and we're having a lot again because, honestly, he's got some good thoughts.

And he's a faithful brother and I appreciate it. Oh, thank you. So we're going to have a good discussion today.

I hope you guys are edified by this. So let's introduce our topic. We are going to be getting into what we're going to title the destruction of high culture.

So what do we mean by that? I mean, it's pretty self-explanatory, the first part, that something's being destroyed and broken down. And we're going to call that thing high culture is what's being destroyed in our society. So high culture, us discussing it before, we're going to call those the hallmark or chief expressions of our society.

That's what high culture would be for any society. And we're going to hone in on those things in our society that are the the chief and the highest and cheapest, the most visible expressions of our society. So do you have anything to add before we hear that? Yeah, just the fruits of the culture.

Any culture will have these intrinsically, but they're usually oriented toward something. They have some kind of tail-offs behind them. Exactly.

But we're going to talk about just the secular Western culture and the move away from what has traditionally been considered high culture that was brought up in a reformation for society. And then kind of what it's going to look like to recapture that and to reform that. Because ultimately a house without a foundation can't stand.

So as Christians who were built on the foundation of Christ and of his word, we do want to be oriented toward building and toward construction. Exactly. In capturing a good high culture, educating ourselves on what it means and actually learning to appreciate those

things.

Yeah, exactly. Yeah, not being ungrateful brats for what God's given us. Yeah.

So first thing to, so we're kind of laying the groundwork here before we really get into the meat of the episode. We also want to claim here and assume that culture is downstream from religion. So or I've also heard it put like culture is religion externalized.

So again, it's those when we talk about my culture, it's those like externalized chief things of the culture. And they come from whatever religious milieu that the people are grown up in, like little babies are grown up in. It's like, so when we think about culture, you can think about agriculture.

It's how plants are grown. When we think about culture, when we're talking about human society, that's what little kids are brought up in, what they grow up in. So all those things Carter just said, all the things I'm saying, and we're assuming that they come from religion, they come from Christianity or whatever idol you want to insert, it's going to produce some sort of culture.

So that's also what we're claiming in this episode. That's going to be our, that's kind of our foundation work here. So unless there's anything you want to add, I think we can kind of get into some specifics here.

No, let's get rolling. Okay, so some big ticket items of high culture that we want to key you into and talk about how they've been distorted or destroyed in our culture. Let's start with art.

That's one thing we want to start with. Yeah, that's probably a big one that you consider when looking at any different civilization. You can study the history of art.

You can study the history of cultures based on the art that that culture produced and learn a lot about what that culture was all about. You know, like looking at ancient archaeological digs, that's a lot of what was recovered, was the art from those societies. And that will teach us and clue us into that society's culture, the art.

You know, and art is really just the, what that culture deems as beautiful, art captures that for the people. So when you talk about high culture, you know, an artist is usually one of the well-protected people in a society because the culture recognizes that as an instrumental part to propagating themselves. You usually don't have a peasant as the chief artist of a society.

The poets in this, and the artists are usually, they have their mansions in the woods and they're creating art or they're writing good books and things like that, writing music. That may be something to also mention is that any culture who is, you know, like hunter-gatherers, they're not really concerned with art or those higher level things. And I think

that also is important to draw from the aspect that culture is downstream from religion.

So, you know, if your society is worried about where they're going to get food, they're really not devoting much time to the arts and to high culture. Exactly. So how is our society now switching from a Christianity-dominated society to a more paganism? So a weird amalgamation of like paganism with this weird new agey, but then you also have atheistic secularism with Darwinism and materialism and just a bunch of isms that are completely godless.

How do you think art's being destroyed? How do we want to talk about, like we're talking about the destruction of all these high cultures, the high culture of our society, art being one of those facets. How is that being destroyed by these people and how should Christians restore it? Let's start. Yeah.

Let's key into that. I think you had the podcast with Will a while back, talking about this specifically and how it deals with art. Yeah.

But from what I can see, it's just the perception that, well, let me start here saying that art is objective and that was the main takeaway from that discussion. There is, and when you look in creation, you can see it. When you see a sunrise, there's something intrinsically beautiful about the colors and the way that it paints across the sky.

Yeah. There's a lot of symmetry throughout creation that you can see just naturally up to, down at a micro level with certain seeds and fruits are structured in their DNA, but then all the way up to macro structures with galaxies and different space things. Yeah.

Cool things in space. Yeah. So there is intrinsic beauty built into creation.

So what we're seeing is this postmodern secularism takeover to say not only is truth or not only is just art or preference subjective, which to an extent it is some people can like this good art or this good art, but it's pulling even away from that to debase it from all truth. Just yeah. All together.

Yeah. Yeah. And the difference between like a person that's looking at their subjective differences in art.

They're both agreeing that there's such a thing as beauty in the world. The postmodern says there is no truth. There's no beauty.

Atheism purports there's no God. There's no higher transcendent meaning to life. There's just material and how you would get from material to beauty, this immaterial concept that you place value on.

That's a stretch to say that. So it's not that when somebody finds one thing beautiful on another person, like a Christian finds mountains more beautiful than a beach and

another Christian says, well, I like the beach. I think the oceans and say, well, you're not denying that there's beauty.

You're just saying, well, me, according to my, my image of God, a unique personality likes these things. You're not denying there's such a thing as beauty. Beauty is still objective.

You can both say, well, actually there is some beauty in that and that I just prefer one beauty of that. You're not denying beauty. And they, the atheistic secularist, they have no basis or foundation for art and beauty, whatever.

So when we talk about the destruction of high culture, they, like I've been seeing on Twitter, these young kids that are for protesting against big oil and they'll go into art galleries and they will throw paint and then sit there and they'll say, well, I'm not denying that. They sit there like little kids and with their arms crossed, you know, and they'll be like protesting that like this, like these paintings are perpetuating, you know, cause they're oil paintings and things like that. They're perpetuating the, uh, this, uh, evil thing happening in the climate.

Right? So when we see these ideas trickle down into people, they end up destroying high culture and it actually is like literally happening through these kids coming and dumping paint. And it also is happening in the art that's produced. It's disgusting.

It's erotic and it's usually very like wrong and evil and wicked. We just don't understand anymore. Exactly.

What is actually good because it's a social conditioning more than anything that here, this is good because it costs this much money. You know, this stupid like NFT monkeys or whatever. Yeah.

That's weird. It was a kind of a manifestation of this, that there is this art and now it's like digital digitized and it's just really weird. I think, you know, the internet has had a lot to do with the way that we perceive and interact in high culture.

And it's led to a more global culture because everybody's so interconnected on the internet. So that's been an interesting phenomenon. But again, that's also is completely removed from what true beauty is in art.

And you use, I think the example or will had said that the example, so I mean, entered a contest and they just taped a banana to a wall and that was the entry and that's post-modernism. Yeah, exactly. It's just something's very mundane and if I call it beautiful, it is beautiful.

Right. Exactly. You're using the eye of the beholder, which is post-modernism.

Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

So, you know, that's how we're going to talk about art here. So we're just going to keep going through all the different facets of culture and how it is. We currently see its destruction in our environment, in our atheistic pagan environment.

So let's hit music. Let's just do music and literature and clump it together just because it's kind of forms of art, subsets of art. Yeah.

So we see musically, give me some of your thoughts you were getting before we were talking about how you are wanting to maybe start doing some music production and you're just kind of thinking about like lyrics being very uncultured lyrics and how we're exchanging good music for bad music now. That's not beautiful. It's not gorgeous and the lyrics are awful.

Yeah. What do you think about that? Yeah. So, I had recently met a guy who, you know, singer songwriter.

So I was just curious about stuff. So I gave it a listen and it's pretty impressed by it. And then I don't know it, it actually got me starting to think about like producing music and how you would come up with this.

Just come up with a song. I don't know. I don't know if there's any proper structure to it, whatever.

Just kind of like winging it, but it has made me focus more on the words that are in music and kind of how they're structured. And then one thing I noticed was that there is a lot more beauty in songs where the voice, the words and the voice harmonize like with the instruments, not in like tonal harmonization, but in the way that they flow together. There is, there's a rhythm to it and there's a structure and a synchronization that goes along with it.

That is, that can be really beautiful. But sometimes it, I don't know, there was an artist I was listening to and it was very, like the music was produced really well, but the words were just very simple. It was like a fifth grade, fifth graders poem.

Yeah. You know, like, the sun comes up, there's fog out in the field and using a lot of like prepositions and that, you know, that kind of stuff, just very rudimentary language. But then when you compare it with the hymns that, you know, Christians have produced in the last, you know, thousand, sorry, thousand years, thousand centuries, well not yet, but one day, but they're just very beautiful, very ornate in its language, very colorful, not simple or reductionist.

And unpredictable. Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

It's like, it creates a grand story that like actually moves the emotions where now music is more an experience and we can see this in, you know, modern worship, seeing contemporary worship music, where it's more emphasis on like producing a feeling instead of like the truth about God. The truth invoking a feeling versus the music itself just trying to evoke a feeling. Yeah.

And regardless of the spiritual, yeah. I don't know. Some more thing with like the SoundCloud Mumble Rap.

Yeah, the Mumble Rap. I don't know. I haven't listened to pop music since I was, you know, early college, since I got Spotify basically.

So like maybe, yeah, into high school. So that was the last I was aware of what was going on. But yeah, it's very, a lot of that, the hip hop music talks about the same three things and it's very immoral and evil and wicked things and it's not creative at all.

Yeah. Now, like old school hip hop actually was like, it was like actual written word poetry. It was beautiful, it was good.

That's a real art one. Modern day stuff is just, it's super, it's just produced to have it really mesmerizing beat. Yeah, exactly.

It focuses like on the wrong aspects of music. So we see a degradation of music and especially just the lyrics specifically talking about very rudimentary or unholy and profane things, which again, it's the destruction of that culture. Right.

If people look at American music, they would say, well, all they care about is money, sex and fame. If they looked at our music that we produce, that's externalizing. Yeah.

What would that teach them about our idol, about who we worship? Well, obviously we worship ourselves, money, sex and fame and a bunch of nonsense and just wickedness. So that's what they would get. But what does a Christian culture produce? What's the high culture of a Christian society? Well, it would be, well, their idol is Yahweh.

Yeah. Their idol is God. Yeah.

So that would be the difference there. So that's where we see the destruction of the high culture and the quality just as bad, like the auto tune and all that. It's just, there's no talent.

It's just the quality is bad of music now. I disagree a little bit. I think you can like use auto tune in a good way, not like to cheat, but like if that's the way you're producing the music and that sounds good, like that's the sound you're going for.

I don't think there's anything wrong with that. But again, if it's, it can be like just, it can just be bad and people just don't know like, okay, this is popular. So I'll listen to it.

That's kind of how I was like, all right, this is what Katy Perry sings, I guess. So yeah, it's just like a lack and understanding. Like we don't listen to just classical music anymore.

We don't know. I mean, I'm guilty of this as well. I don't know that.

Like a bunch of classical music, you know, that's our Beethoven. Yeah. Like, you know, the basics, but you know, that's not what we listened to anymore because we don't understand and we don't know how to appreciate.

We're just uneducated, right? We don't. Exactly. We're not tapped into that high culture.

Yeah. Yeah. It's a different culture we're in now.

So then literature, I mean, the books and the stories we tell now are just atrocious. I mean, people don't, I mean, not a lot of, the culture really doesn't have that. The culture really doesn't read anymore.

It doesn't really read. And the fiction things that they do produce is like, I know Dune got real popular. I haven't even read Dune or anything.

I haven't heard that it's anything just spectacular. I like the movie. The movie was probably okay, you know, and the story is probably fine.

It's just, wow, we hit one good story out of, I mean, we used to, and again, I know there's the, there's the appearance of better than it seems because we just get the best from the old cultures. Yeah. And actually all the stuff that was written because that stuff faded out.

Yeah. But I guess just the, I guess maybe this is what I'm saying. There's a big difference between, you know, Dante's divine comedy and Dune.

Yeah. That's what I'm saying. The best, the cream of the crop of our society now is much, much different than the cream of the crop and times before.

Right. And even anything modern would probably be Lord of the Rings. Yeah.

And that's still in the 1900s. Yeah. Yeah.

So that would be probably the best, most recent. Yeah. But they, high culture.

Exactly. Yeah. You know, but they talk about evil and wicked things now in the books, like the culture is being destroyed.

Yeah. And there's books now in libraries for kids that talk about like sexual deviancy and transgenderism is okay. And like, like the books are talking about evil, wicked things and feminist, very, very feminist.

Yeah. And that's what I think. So that's why the high culture shifted.

Yeah. And now the culture is depicting a different religion rather than the Christian religion. So the, the, the literature is just not going to tell a good story because, because humans actually usually like stories where good triumphs over evil.

And now we tell stories where like evil is like the hallmark of the, of the story. So it's just, it's just not going to be good because evil is just not, it's not as glorious. Yeah.

It's just not, it's disgusting. Yeah. It might appear glorious to those that are, that are evil and love wicked things, but then once they get a glimpse of true glory, they're like, wait a second.

I was, I liked filth before. And now this is true glory. You know? Yeah.

We really have. What do you think about that? Yeah. We really have kind of lost the, the archetype of, and that's, I think partially by design that we're losing the archetype of the gospel, the good triumphs over evil.

Yeah. You're like seemingly insurmountable odds, which you know, it was Christ at the cross. He died, but who would have thought that he would rise from the dead and have power over death itself.

And that, you know, that archetype has played out not only just in nature, like there must be death to have like new life, but like even in our own hearts, God has instilled that, that we do have an affinity for what is good. Yeah. Just naturally.

And obviously like our consciences are darkened and our minds are, are darkened and hearts hardened, but like God still has put enough common grace and creation that we should be able to recognize that. And so our culture is, and it's just like, especially like in movies and other kinds of entertainment, we're not seeing good originality anymore. There was like a phase of good movies like, you know, a couple decades ago, and now everything's just like, re-spends on it.

And you know, it's just like almost everything's a remake now. The Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2, I think just came out and it's like the movie. No, no, it's a video game, but Modern Warfare 2 is not like, they like reintroduced it from like 2010 or 2011, 12.

Yeah. So they're just remaking Buzz Light, your spin off. I just saw an ad.

It was watching the World Cup the other day. It was watching the ad for, it was Puss in Boots from Shrek, like several decades ago. Shrek is still going strong apparently.

Shrek is still going strong, baby. So it's just like, it's like, uh, you know, we're just, it's because we're getting lazy. Like, yeah, like the consumers are what's getting lazy.

They know they can beat us crap. They can beat us crap. I love it.

And I mean, going back to the literature, I don't know where I heard this, but I did hear that libraries will have a certain time limit on how long they can keep books if they haven't been rented or checked out. So whatever, say it's two years. So some of the best books that are actually good literature.

We don't have a taste for it anymore. Yeah. We don't have a taste.

Yeah. They just get nixed from the catalog. Yeah.

And guess what? They got to pull on some new fat LGBTQ stuff. Yeah. Let's go baby.

New woke stuff to fill in that spot. Something that people will actually consume. So it's like a negative feedback loop.

Like we don't understand what's beautiful. So people don't produce what's beautiful. And then we're not exposed to it anymore.

And then we don't learn it more. Yeah. Yeah.

Which is why the Bible is the gateway to true beauty. If you want to recapture that, if society is going downhill, as long as God's word is still available to you, you can recapture what's good true beautiful and then start requiring and asking those things again. Okay.

I want to make a comment on movies real quick because I don't know if I've shared this thought with you guys. So this will be just kind of off the cuff. But so Christianity, the Christian subculture within our larger pagan culture, creates these like Hallmark super cheesy movies that suck.

They just suck. No, pure flicks. Yeah.

They're super predictable and the story suck. They're not compelling at all. They just suck.

Yeah. They're awful. Dude, turn that off.

I'm sorry. It's okay. So these Christian movies are super cheesy and everybody thinks they suck you for the Christians.

Okay. But then at the same time in parallel, you had in Hollywood and these larger movie industries creating like good movies alongside. So you had like Lord of the Rings being produced and you had like I'm talking early 2000s, right? Yeah.

Before, before like woke ism and like the externalization of secular atheism was really here yet. We were still kind of in this in between phase. Yeah.

Neutral world. Yeah, exactly. So in neutral world, you have like these movies that are being created.

Like let's just take Lord of the Rings as a case study. Really super popular like success in the box office. Star Wars two.

It's got these, it's got, it's a good story. It's got Christian principles. You have like a savior figure you have, you have triumph of good over evil.

You have a lot of like good Christian principles, but it's not this cheesy, predictable piece of crap movie. Like the cheesy Christian stuff. Now, now guess where we are in our society.

Now that paganism is being externalized in our, like our high culture, which is what this, this episode of this podcast is about. Now they're producing movies that are like explicitly pushing and shoving LGBTQ and there's got to be two black people and an Asian person and this or that. Right.

So you got to have like this binary person. Yeah. Non binary.

You got to have this, this, this rainbow of colors. And then you got to have your token LGBTQ person and all this and you got to have mixture. There's a lesbian kiss in the movie and all this stuff.

Right. That's super cheesy and everybody even see straight through that. So you've seen like CNN plus try to come out tanked, right? All the woke stuff.

It's so obvious what they're trying to do. It's so cheesy that the American populace is like rejecting that form of entertainment and Hollywood's box office stuff's going down and it's not as good. And propaganda.

Yeah. And the propaganda is now so in your, it's so explicit. It's not, there's no undercurrents of it anymore.

It's now that religion is now externalized in your face and it's so cheesy and bad, which is why like these stories like Lord of the Rings or Robinson Crusoe, you know, like some of these like C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia. It's these, it's these stories that have all the Christian principles in it without being so overtly cheesy. Yeah.

Well now the, now the atheist is at the cheesy phase of entertainment. Yeah. And everybody hates it.

The two overt. Yeah, the two overt. So that's my little theory I'm playing with right now.

I'm curious what you think, but in terms of moving entertainment, we have got to this point where the high culture switch and it's externalized now and it's really ugly. Like it's

extremely ugly. Yeah.

And I think what we're seeing is this centralization collapse that yeah, we've had these same, these same universes or series or whatever you want to call. So like Marvel's been going on forever and it just keeps on going. Yeah.

So I don't know. Part of what I liked about Star Wars as a kid, it was like, you know, you had the original trilogy and it was like a three set and bam, it was done. It was a good story.

Yeah. It was a story. But what we're seeing today is like, it's not, it's not about this.

It's just like about consumption. It's about money. Just like, oh, I want to go get entertained and see it.

And it's like this, this doom scrolling a movie. It's a great point. So it's again, it's not, it's not an appreciation for the stories, which is really kind of what high culture is.

Yes. It's just a consumption of, that's great. Of the product.

That's a great point. I agree wholeheartedly. I see that.

Yeah. It is part of the consumeristic mindset, but yeah, I think that what's, you know, you see the chosen is wildly popular, totally crowdfunded. I think it's pretty good production.

I've only seen like the first season and part of the second, but you know, like it. It's good art. Yeah.

It captures with, you know, you know, you've seen those Jesus movies as a kid and like, you know, they're just kind of cheesy. And they're meant to evoke, like, you know, it's, it's for the gospel presentation. So I get it.

And it helps people visualize and understand a little bit more culturally, like what, what the gospel is about. Maybe a cultural culture or whatever. But, you know, this is actually like, it brings in a lot of historical context.

So it's good. It's beautiful. So, and that's, that is something that like you can appreciate about movies.

Like it does movies that do bring in like some realism and that kind of, that's like actual context, the setting. Because again, if it's a good story, you'll appreciate it. And if it's, and if it doesn't have a convincing setting, then you're really not, you're not like, oh, this is like, you're not getting into it.

Yeah. Yeah. So, so these Christian films are just cheesy.

Now these woke films are cheesy and evil and disgusting. Right. So that's why it doesn't

work long run.

Right. And, and Christians need to recapture good, beautiful art. Yeah, because we Christians used to be at the top of high culture because they understood God and his beauty.

Yep. And so yeah, there is a need to recapture that. Exactly.

So we've talked about quite a number of artistic kind of expressions of culture. I mean, there's still more we can get into. Let's hit on education and we can even talk about food.

Yeah. So we've talked about entertainment media and stuff. We could do education.

We'll talk about education for a minute. I mean, just real quick, like, we see education just being co-opted by Marxists that want to basically teach your kids for political action and wokeism rather than truth, true facts about the world and who the true God is. I mean, education is moral too.

It's not just, and the Marxists understand that education is moral. It's not just to shape a person to be a cog in a machine. Yeah.

You get the kids and you get that generation. Exactly. So we see the atheists taking that over because public education is like one of the central tenets of Marxism.

So they've accomplished that and Christians have Christian education, which is way better, more fruitful, more in depth and actually teaches truth. Yeah. And you look at the original founding of all the Ivy League schools, all of them were seminaries, Christian exclusively.

And so only with the modern and, you know, I've been of postmodernism, they have to completely switch. Yeah. Just switch it every, and you know, pushing all these, which is now what our high culture is as a culture, like LGBTQIA plus.

Yeah. Doctrine and critical race. Oh yeah.

There's a lot of the new, like the biggest ones. Yeah. Let's just, we could just stick there.

We don't have to go. Right. Those are the Hallmark secular doctrines being taught.

Right. So we kind of briefly touched on food before we started talking how the consumeristic, atheistic kind of like version of capitalism. Yeah.

Produces McDonald's and produces McRib's produces disgusting chicken nuggets made from disgusting meat and Coca Cola is the most common drink. Yeah. Coca Cola.

So our food even looks like there's a difference when you look at like a TV dinner that

you microwave heat real fast. Yeah. Versus a actual grass fed sirloin.

Like or even home. Yeah. Home cooked meal.

Big difference. Yeah. And that's just, again, part of this centralization of the culture.

We're just going to make it really efficient for these consumers to eat, but not really caring about the effects of it. Exactly. I mean the food chain right now is just preposterous when you look at the complete energy consumption.

Uh huh. Um. And how much is wasted.

Yeah, exactly. So many problems. Just getting your food here.

And then it's completely unhealthy on top of that because they are optimizing not for health as it is actually going into your body, but more for cost. They want to be efficient. They want to make a lot of money.

And then big food has lobbyists that are pushing the government to keep these. Practical. Uh, regulations in place.

If favorable for big food, but it's not for us. It is severely unhealthy. Um.

And it's just a byproduct of. You know, again, we're taught that, you know, McDonald's is very popular. And so we eat that and we're, you know, they advertise and yeah, there's, there's just loving it.

I'm loving it, dude. I'm hating it. Yeah, it's pretty nasty.

So that's what, that's what the high cultures produced in terms of food, disgusting food. That's bad for your health. Now what does Christian culture produce? Uh, families that actually take care of their health, take care of their bodies and actually understand that animals have rights.

There's no such thing as rights if you're an atheist. So animal rights is not a thing. That's why they, that's why they treat chickens and cows the way they do.

But in Christianity, animals actually have rights. You can look at the book of Leviticus. You're not allowed the muzzle of the ox while it treads.

Uh, at the end of the book of Jonah, he explicitly talks about that. It's not bad to just like, just murder. What do you want me to do? Just murder a bunch of cows.

Actually cows are important to me, says God. So, uh, and that's at the end of Jonah there, chapter four, I think at the end. So, uh, in Christianity, we actually get animal rights and you don't get that anywhere else.

So that's what we're saying about food here. Architecture is another externalization of the high culture of the religion downstream from that. So, um, we create buildings now that last for the life of the mortgage that are not aesthetically pleasing.

Same thing with churches now look like warehouses. Uh, even just warehouses in general. It's very fast to construct, which that's the culture.

They just want to grow, grow, grow and consume, consume, consume. It's not to last. Yeah, exactly.

And I don't know. It's just, it's just a bad understanding of they have a bad eschatology basically. Um, so, or as we, you know, us as Christians understand that Christ has redeemed the world and is conquering it and we are to receive it as an inheritance.

Yeah. So let's treat it as such and actually build buildings that are to last last and also depict the God that we serve, which is a beautiful God. So the architecture ought to depict that.

Yeah. My parents went to Europe this past summer. Yeah, architecture is awesome.

They were able to, they saw the Sistine Chapel and just like the pictures. That would be insane. It's just they, they had a much better understanding of who God was and it showed.

Yeah. And all their art is so beautiful, but that's awesome. You know, yeah.

Modern architecture. It's just like, I don't know. It's like some preconception of what futuristic should look like.

Yeah. And it's just like super drab and you know, dystopic more than anything. I was like, no, the pinnacle of culture was like during the reformation and they were producing really beautiful buildings, cathedrals, cities.

And I mean, we can get them into the automobile and how that's kind of changed everything as well. Change the way we build. Enjoy.

It's a grid. It's not aesthetic. It's not beautiful like cities of Europe before now.

Yeah. Gridlocked and just, it's not aesthetic. It's just not pretty.

Exactly. Like it might be symmetrical and efficient, but it's not pretty. Yeah, exactly.

It looks, it looks like a cancer. Yeah. You know, and that cancer spread.

I mean, you got to give some credit to the climate activists that say, hey, this is bad. What we're doing is bad. It is to an extent, but their solutions are wrong and their worldview is wrong.

So they'll never be able to actually like take dominion and fix it. Yeah. So that's Christian architecture versus pagan architecture, the destruction of high culture, their clothing and tattoos.

So now we have in modest clothing because people don't know what a woman is. She's not to be shown off. She's not an object.

An atheist would say she's just a little, that's what atheism teaches. Like Darwinism is like female organisms are sexual objects to impregnate. That is what Darwinism teaches.

Yeah. So you don't get, you don't get that women have dignity and they should actually maybe like clothe themselves so that men don't gawk at them and objectify them. You don't get that in atheism.

You don't get that paganism. You don't get, you only get that Christianity. Yep.

So tattoos too. I mean, there's debate there. Some Christians think it's okay.

Some Christians, I don't even know where you stand on this. I mean, you brought up tattoos. We can talk about that.

I think it's generally, well, do you think there's tattoos have gotten more like, like what they're depicting is bad. You can have tattoos that are pretty. Where does you want to go with that? Yeah.

I think you can do tattoos that are like actually aesthetic. Yeah. Good.

But it's, I don't know. Like what I'm seeing today, it's just like random, like little things, like a collection of a shot. Pong, random pictures or tech, you know, little doodles.

It's really not beautiful. Like you want to put that on your body. And again, it goes back to like, we've lost really what is beautiful.

So I'll just do what I want. And it's just this, you know, this culture where we're trying to express ourselves. Yeah.

You know, express themselves in a certain way. And that's, oh, I'm so, like, that's the whole thing with the non binary. Like, oh, I'm just so quirky.

Look at how, look at how weird. Yeah. So that's like, that seems to be like the nature behind it.

Yeah. That's the thing with tattoos with me. The exact same critique is, let's not even get into what the Bible condones it or not.

Let's just look at like, what are you doing? You are trying to stick out like a sore thumb and be different because you're not, like God gave you a body and he made everybody

come out looking the same way. We all have skin that doesn't have markings on it. And when you get a tattoo, you're saying, I am treating my body as a canvas.

It's, it's God hasn't made me beautiful already. I need to spice up my skin. And to me, that just seems a little ungrateful.

And I know some people don't have motivations for, I don't want to demonize their motivation. And their motivation isn't, I want to be unique and get attention, but it's hard for me to grasp. Like some people just think it's pretty.

You have to be like really like well done for me. Exactly. But I don't think it's inherently sinful just from that text in Leviticus.

I think for me, I'm wary of it. Just they're not doing it as an alien ritual. Like, yeah, exactly.

So there's like clothing and tattoos and men to like, yeah, men used to wear, I'd like to do just an episode about this and at some point we're gonna touch on it briefly. But yeah, men used to wear suits. Like if you were a working class man, you had a working class suit.

If you were a businessman, you had a business suit. But you never would see a man out in public in baggy sweats and a tank top or whatever with a hat backwards. That actually, that's not respectable attire for public appearance.

And it makes you look like we try to dress now. It's cool to dress down is what I'm saying. To go outside in baggy sweats and stuff and to look like comfortable.

People are like, oh, they're so comfy. And it's like, but you're not presentable and you don't look presentable. So we used to have a society where dignity and respect.

Yeah, dignity and respect. Which kind of does go along with high culture. There was a regality to it.

Exactly. Yeah. I think that's a word.

Regality. Yeah, like regal. Yeah.

So there's clothing. I think, yeah, that's good. That's good.

Hit right there. We can kind of start wrapping it up here soon. Social participation.

And we have that expresses itself with language and stuff too. So yeah, what were you thinking there? I mean, we did touch on it earlier with the internet culture. It has just made memes ubiquitous.

So that is like how people communicate. And that's how people joke and everything

through social media now. So you lose a ton of the face to face interaction that you that we used to have with people when we would go out and engage in social, social activities.

And that's a huge detriment because it definitely has hampered our, I think our respect for each other. And that's why we have such a hostile public sphere now. Yeah.

But it has like, there is this internet. I know, you know, I don't even think that secular culture would be as bad as it is today without the advent of the internet. It's true.

It has perpetuated a lot of these things and also controls the flow of information. So it does, you know, you can prioritize certain worldviews over the other. And so in this worldview is just, it's just a really bad way that people interact and communicate with each other to the point where, you know, kids like ought to be social.

They are social. And so when you take them out of their, like, the social context that they were meant to be in an actual community, and kind of make them just a number on the internet, like, I, it just isn't surprising to me that we have so many socially awkward introverted things that, like, don't have to be like, oh, I'm not gonna do that. Like, don't know how to interact with people.

Yeah, that's a good point. Yeah. So the way we socially participate depicts like if we have a fractured atomized society, like the internet creates that you're going to think, well, there's, there's no supernatural transcendent principle that binds them together in community.

That's what you're articulating. And that's what atheism produces. Yeah.

You know, survival, the fittest best man for himself, you against the world, basically. And whoever you want to ally yourself with you, you can't now Christianity teaches we're all made in the image of God. Therefore you can't you can allow yourself in like through family and nation and things like that in unique ways, but you can't just disregard other humans just cause.

Yeah, just because you want to beat them at something. No, we're all made in the image of God. And there's, there's this idea of human general respect to all humans.

All humans in that sense. So social participation should be community driven Christian culture, where we actually cohere together in that way rather than just atomized. So it's gonna look totally different in the high culture that produces social interaction.

Yeah. And then let's, let's hit on this. Are you? Yeah.

I mean, the fulfillment of that, like we have it in the church, I'd say. Yes. And, you know, geography is really important for that too.

Like, you know, we live in a nature where we can kind of pick and choose which church we go to. But still there's that community there. We're actually meeting together.

And if it's a healthy fruitful church, like there is going to be good social interaction, good camaraderie meals shared together. Yeah. Like life lived together.

Yeah. So it's not just show up on Sunday, consume the message and go home, which is a product of whatever. It's just going to a movie, right? Yeah.

You don't care about those other. It's yeah. Yeah.

But there is something unique about the church community as Christ's body that is unique and out of that can flow the high culture that does shape a society for the good and for the better. Yeah. And how, how much just going off that how much has this high culture influenced the way we consume church? Like, yeah, what you're getting at that every other form of art and high culture in our society is consumeristic.

Yeah. How much has that actually infiltrated the church where we go and we consume the church and hear the message that we leave. We don't talk to anybody.

We don't partake in the sacrament. Every single, there are churches that do it once a month, partake in the sacrament. And I mean, so it's just that, I mean, you make a great point.

I think it has influenced this new high culture, this negative world we're in is now influencing the church. Even the way we consume church. Not every church.

We don't go to worship God. Not every church. Exactly.

Yeah. I don't want to overgeneralize here. And then let's talk about language.

I mean, the way we speak now, not eloquent. People don't spend time. Like we do real quick tweets.

We watch YouTube videos. We don't sit down and actually read really long books and hone in our speaking skills and the way we articulate ourselves. It's very, it's more emotionally driven than it is intellectually driven.

Exactly. So our language is very vulgar. Yeah.

And it talks about and depicts things and you get these trendy little pithy statements. From memes and things like that. Again, that's a product of internet culture.

Exactly. Yeah. So Christian language, like you were saying in the lyrics of like Christian hymns, for instance, it's unpredictable.

Every line's different. You don't repeat yourself a million times. It actually is.

It's a very large, the bullseye is large. You're trying to hit and the Christian language can go across the whole thing and still hit the target, you know. But there's no such thing as a target in a postmodern view.

So your language is going to be just whatever. However you want to say things, whatever makes you feel good. And basically like you can even just change the dictionary.

Yeah. I mean, do words like even really have meaning. You can just change them.

Like what's like, exactly. Why don't we just call water food and food water? Like really, what's the difference? Like we just, if we just started associating the word of food with what water actually is. Oh, I'm going to go drink some food.

Yeah. I mean, if everybody just had that common understanding and agreement, what's, what's the difference? So like that is the root of kind of this is subjective as I'm. Yeah.

Yeah. So language would be radically different in this Christian high culture. Yeah.

And has been in the past. We can recapture. That's what we're trying to encourage in this podcast that all these things flow from religion.

That's what was our main claim at the beginning. So if you worship God and spirit and truth, you repented your sins and turn to Christ, the savior, these things will be redeemed this high culture. It's the idea of a nation within a nation, a priesthood in the midst of a wicked people interceding for them.

So we talked about food. Yeah. And then play in sports, just rec, recreation in general.

We just spend our time on ugly things that don't actually matter. Yeah. A lot of, you know, just again, consumeristic mindset, like you just either eat and shop or shop and eat.

Yep. That's about it. And, you know, like, again, socially, like we don't, unless you're, I guess, in an organized sport, like plays for, and, you know, I don't have kids like in this time right now.

So I don't really understand what it's like to bring up kids in this social context. Yeah. But like when I was a kid, I'd just go and find random kids to play with.

Yeah. You know, and have fun. Like, I don't know.

I didn't have an iPad or, you know, the internet. And so that that culture that I was raised in is I would imagine a lot different than the culture. Yeah.

My little cousins always have an iPad or some kind of screen and that is how they

interact with the world. They don't, they're not good at talking to adults because they don't spend time talking to adults. You know? So, so yeah, I mean, even your play in sports and recreation would be totally different, which no, no one I have talked about that in the past couple of episodes and stuff.

So, and even just like spectating sports. I don't know. Sports have always been in the culture.

It's been kind of weird. You know, you see it across a bunch of cultures like the gladiator, the gladiator games and stuff. The Olympics have been around since ancient Greece.

Yeah. You know, there was that South American game that was like, it was like worship. Yeah.

They would have to hit the ball under the hoop. And if your team won, you were honored with being sacrificed to the God. So, like sports is an outplay of a culture and society, you know, Europe.

The World Cup is going on right now. And that is a product of high, of high culture. Yeah.

You know, depending on what that culture is. Yeah. Well, the Greeks even like did their gladiator games because of the male aesthetic.

They, they, they, their religion, they would always make sculptures of like the perfect male body. Yeah. So the goal of the Olympics was just to depict what basically male peak performance looks like.

Yeah. Which, which is a part of their culture. It's glorious.

I mean, I think. Yeah. It's on right.

Yeah. God has given people gifts and so for them to use those gifts, although they don't acknowledge it all the time, it glorifies God that when people excel in their gifts. Yeah.

So that's, that's an interesting thing. And yeah, you, I remember you and Noah had talked about just that some people get so wrapped up in it. Yeah.

It is something that can be influential, but we shouldn't give it more. Yeah. Keep it as proper place.

Yeah. Yeah. Well, any last thoughts, Carter? No.

Okay. So I think our, our exhortation, why we thought this podcast would be important is a reminder that the things you see around you, the high culture, things that happen, which especially you will see them on social media. Yeah.

That's a big place where you see a lot of this externalized like, like language, music, like

literature. I mean, all that education. I mean, social media is like driving a lot of these things.

Be aware as a Christian where you can see the culture has shifted from externalizing Yahweh to externalizing atheistic Darwinism, secularism. So be aware of that. And remember, as a Christian, your war to fight back against this, this exchange of high culture is to create.

High culture once again, within your own families, in your own context, the things you have control over. Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

And eventually Lord Willard, he will grant us victory over the culture and we can go back to not go back, but move forward. Like in a similar manner that our fathers before us, that the Christian men and women before us were shaping culture around the world. We can continue to do that.

And that is really is what the gospel is supposed to do to shape the culture of a society. We're always reforming. Yeah, always keep going.

Semper Reframanda, always reforming. So that's our exhortation. Start building culture where you're at, build a parallel economy and do the things you can do as a man or woman to extend the borders of the kingdom to the ends of the earth.

So thanks for listening to the For the King podcast. You can check me out at for the king podcast.com. I'm also on Twitter and gab at For the King pod. Also, I will tag Carter in Twitter so you can see maybe some of the things this guy's into.

Maybe get him a follow. I just see some of the funny stuff. I just like all the funny stuff.

Yeah, Carter finds some funny things. So yeah, you can follow him on Twitter and stuff and we can engage the culture that way and put Christian high culture into social media. That's what we're trying to do with our social media.

Me, Carter Noah, our buddies, right? We're trying to influence culture that way. So you can do the same thing if you're on social media and join us in that endeavor. And I also have a blog at forthekeingpodcast.com. You can check that out.

Some of the things I put on there and some of the resources. Thank you so much for listening, guys. To the king of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, the honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen. Solely, dayo, glory. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

(gentle music)

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