**COUNTER CULTURE REVIEW (FORGIVENESS)**

**Psalms 16:1-6**

**16**Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You.
**2**[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NASB#fen-NASB-14095b)]I said to the Lord, “You are [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NASB#fen-NASB-14095c)]my Lord;
I have no good besides You.”
**3**As for the [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NASB#fen-NASB-14096d)]saints who are in the earth,
[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NASB#fen-NASB-14096e)]They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.
**4**The [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NASB#fen-NASB-14097f)]sorrows of those who have [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+16&version=NASB#fen-NASB-14097g)]bartered for another *god* will be multiplied;
I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood,
Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

**5**The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You support my lot.
**6**The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places;
Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

We must remember God is our portion, he provides for us, and we should not buy into those who have another God or Idol. God has promised a beautiful inheritance and heritage in Christ. Us of many cultures lets be united and see that our good and refuge is in the Lord!

Culture (defined) - the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group.

**COUNTER CULTURE TAKEAWAYS**

**CULTURE**

* God Make us Zealous for Your glory – make us passionate, let us be devoted
* God is holy, the creator of all things, sinless, sufficient, necessary in our lives, and we have an urgent call to respond to Jesus and spread his gospel

**WEALTH**

Simplify your living, Increase your giving, and consider your going!

**HUMAN LIFE**

Christians value human life

Across the world there are more than 42 million abortion every year – 150,000 every day

The value of human life is being demeaned & minimized – even negated through things life pornography

God is creator, king, judge, & savior – He created us in him image & our purpose IS God

**SEXUALITY**

God created men and women with equal dignity, with different roles, and as a reflection of the Trinity

Who we are gender wise was pre-known by God – the world perverts this idea by saying you can choose your gender after you are born

**Purity:**

1 Corinthians 6:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**18**Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+corinthians+6%3A18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-28486a)]immoral man sins against his own body.

2 Timothy 2:21-22

 **21**Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. **22**Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1 Timothy 5:22 says do not share in the sins of others & keep yourself pure

1 John 1:7-10

**7**but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8**If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

**RACE**

* See the promise God has made – a great nation, an eternal kingdom
* See the price Christ has paid
* See the place God has prepared

In the end, we are all immigrants – the Bible says that believers in Christ are sojourners & exiles

We work together for unity in our diversity!!

**FAITH**

As we believe the gospel with deep-seated conviction in our lives, lets proclaim the gospel with death-defying confidence

As we continually envision eternal glory with God, let’s joyfully embrace earthly suffering

Hebrews 11: 1. - "Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

 **Faith** is the initial ingredient to begin a relationship with God.

**THESE ARE YOUR FINAL QUESTIONS:**

How will I intentionally engage culture?

How will I engage the issue of poverty, widows, and orphans?

How will I engage the issue of human life?

How will I engage the issue of gender, gender roles, and morality?

How will I engage the issue of racism, diversity, and unity?

How will I engage the issue of Faith and Missions?

We need to:

**REFLECT** – on God’s word and what God wants for our lives

**PRAY** – where God would have us go, serve, respond, and spread the gospel

**PLAN** – how we go, serve, act, and react to a world in need

**RESPOND** – Persevere through with our commitment to God as Jesus fulfilled his commitment to us

*MAKE A PLAN, WRITE IT DOWN, PUT IT IN A JOURNAL, PUT IT IN A WALLET, HANG IT ABOVE YOUR BED – BUT RESPOND TO IT ACCORDING TO HOW GOD WOULD HAVE YOU!*

FORGIVENESS IN CULTURE

As we go out into this world we are going to be hurt emotionally, socially, and maybe even physically for the cause of Christ.

Remember – the common culture around us is saying you don’t have to forgive. In fact some say that forgiveness is silly, not doable, and relates to a world thousands of years ago with no relation today.

REMEMBER: Forgiveness is INTENTIONAL, VOLUNTARY, & POSITIVE

Forgiveness is not Forgetting – that’s not Biblical. Even we will be held accountable for our actions yet forgiven for them. In the end they will all be forgotten by God!

We need to hold on to Jesus, but we must remember and keep focused on something as we do the will of God: FORGIVENESS

*When someone calls you a Jesus Freak – forgive them*

*When someone bullies you because of your religion – forgive them (let me know about it though)*

*When someone spits on you – forgive them*

*When someone threatens your life or a loved ones – forgive them*

*God forbid if someone dies for the cause of Christ – forgive them*

**Jesus died for the adulterer, the thief, the murderer (Paul), the liar, the beggar, the cheat, the greedy, the glutton, the prostitute, the vandal, the prideful, the envious, the jealous, the hateful, those who curse, those who bully, those who fly into a rage, those who act before the think, those who lied about breaking their mothers eagle figurine at a young age, those who seek pity, those who idolize material things, and the list goes on and on…. Jesus died for them and if they ask in him into their hearts: He forgives them!**

# Ephesians 4:32 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**32**Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Even when the jury and the judge say you have the right to hold a grudge – FORGIVE!!!!!!

Its required, it leads to better things not bitter things, its right, its honorable, and we must look evil straight in the eye and say, “I forgive you!” – and when we do…. WOW! It is powerful. Those three words may be the difference in eternity for those gone astray!