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The Controversial Church: The Cultural Challenge

Job 12:13 - *But true wisdom and power are found in God; counsel and understanding are his.*

- **God Speaks Within Culture**

Ephesians 6:5 - *Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.*

John 16:13 - *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.*

- **The Holy Spirit Will Help Us To Understand The Truth Revealed In The Written Word**

John 15:19 - *The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.*

- **Jesus Tells Us To Expect Rejection**

2 Timothy 3:16 - *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.*

- **The Scriptures Are Absolutely Trustworthy**

Psalms 119:160 - *The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.*

John 17:17 - *Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.*

THE CULTURAL CHALLENGE

2 Peter 3:15-16 - *And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— ¹⁶ speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.*

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 - *When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.*

- **The Better We Know Jesus, The Less Attractive Sinful Living Will Be**

Ephesians 1:6-8 - *So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.*

- **The Church Is God's Witness For Grace**

2 Corinthians 5:14 - *Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.*