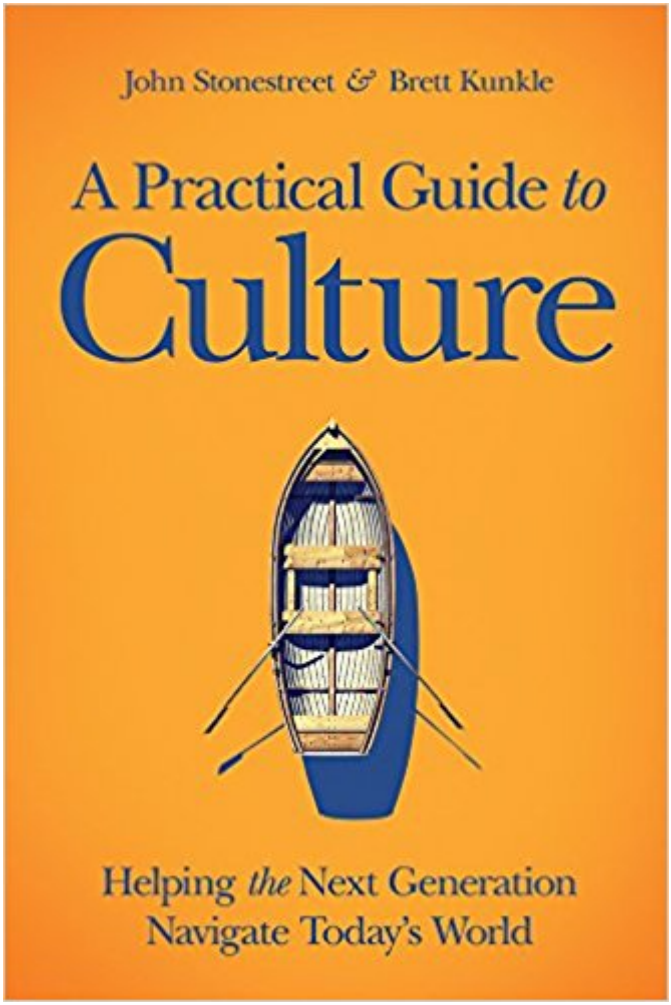
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A Practical Guide To Culture: Helping The Next Generation Navigate TodayÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s World



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Synopsis

We donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have to lose the next generation to culture. In this practical guide, John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle explore questions including:What unseen undercurrents are shaping twenty-first-century youth culture?Why do so many kids struggle with identity?How do we talk to kids about same-sex marriage and transgenderism?How can leaders steer kids away from substance abuse and other addictions?How can we ground students in the biblical story and empower them to change the world?Ã Â With biblical clarity, this is the practical go-to manual to equip kids to rise above the culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Learn to Read the Cultural Waters Some of the Pounding Cultural Waves Pornography The Hookup Culture Sexual Orientation Addiction Entertainment Racial Tension Understand What Culture Is and What It Does to Us Includes The Guide to Christian Worldview Essentials. A Practical Guide to Culture Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World Do you feel like you are fighting a losing battle for the hearts and minds of your kids? Something has changed. We all sense it. The cultural pressure is increasing, especially on our kids. But even in a world of ever-present screens, gender-identity questions, and addictions, kids can have clarity and confidence. We must help them. In this honest and practical guide for parents and Christian leaders, John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle explore questions such as: - What unseen undercurrents are shaping twenty-first-century youth culture? - Why do so many kids struggle with

identity? - How do we talk to kids about LGBT issues? - How can we steer kids away from substance abuse and other addictions? - How can we ground students in the biblical story and empower them to change the world? This inspiring book will empower you to help your kids influence the culture, rather than let the culture change them.

What Culture Is (and What It Is Not) Among Christians, culture is a word much used but rarely defined. It comes from the Latin word cultura, which means ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“agriculture.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• If plowing, tilling, and cultivating come to mind, they should. In its most basic sense, culture refers to what people do with the world: we build, we invent, we imagine, we create, we tear down, we replace, we compose, we design, we emphasize, we dismiss, we embellish, we engineer. As Andy Crouch says, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Culture is what human beings make of the world.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•

Culture is dynamic and changingÃ¢â ¬â •and that change often comes in waves that threaten to overwhelm us. But as Christians, weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re able to secure ourselves to solid, unchanging truth in the chaotic ocean of culture. John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle show us how to navigate the tides and pass those skills on to the next generation. (Jim Daly)A Practical Guide to Culture is a profound, witty, and forthright manual written by two concerned dads who also happen to be two of the most effective worldview and apologetics experts of our day. Based on their deep experience working with tens of thousands of teenagers, John and Brett show how to stop giving in to a degrading culture that makes kids unhealthy and sad and start raising kids who love Jesus and live without fear and regret. (Jeff Myers, PhD)I wish John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle had written A Practical Guide to Culture years ago. As a parent and youth pastor, I was often concerned about the impact the culture might have on my children and students, and I wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t always sure how to address the challenges. John and Brett have written a hopeful, engaging book that will prepare parents, educators, and youth leaders to equip young minds. This isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t just a survey of culture; itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s an active, purposeful, and thoughtful action plan. If you want your students and children to represent Christ in a fallen world as they thrive in their Christian walk, A Practical Guide to Culture is an essential guide. (J. Warner Wallace)Will the next generation be defined by the radical cultural shifts taking place, or will the culture be defined by a generation committed to the radical love, redemptive truth, and restorative grace of Jesus? In A Practical Guide to Culture, John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle provide a biblically based roadmap designed to assist a generationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s navigation through the difficult currents of relativism, decadence, and apathy,

while simultaneously shining the light of Christ. (Rev. Samuel Rodriguez)Ã¢â ¬Å“Everyone who works with students and cares about their future needs this guide. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s exactly what the title says: practical. John and Brett haveÃ Â filled this book with clarity, wisdom, and loving advice on the most important issues facing this generation.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Eric Metaxas)Ã¢â ¬Å“A Practical Guide to CultureÃ Â is smart, clear, and incredibly helpful for Christians trying to raise faithful, resilient children in a post-ChristianÃ¢â ¬â •and increasingly anti-ChristianÃ¢â ¬â •society.Ã Â This is abook written by intelligent men who know how to relate big ideas to daily life in terms everyone can understand. When people ask me, Ã¢â ¬ËœBut what can we Christians do about the collapsing culture?Ã¢â ¬â„¢, I will emphatically recommend this book as the place to begin. IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m buying two copies: one for my familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s use and one for my pastorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Rod Dreher)

John Stonestreet is president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, the cohost of BreakPoint, and the coauthor of several books. Brett Kunkle is the student impact director at Stand to Reason, with more than twenty-five years of experience working with junior high, high school, and college students.Ã Â John and Brett are sought-after public speakers who address tens of thousands of students, teachers, parents, and pastors each year. John lives with his family in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Brett lives with his family in Southern California.

Book Review: A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's WorldAuthor: John Stonestreet and Brett KunkleFormat: HardbackTopic: Christian LivingScope: Contemporary Living and Influence in the CulturePurpose: To equip Christian leaders, parents, and students with the tools to successfully navigate the culture. This means they will be able to flourish as Christians even when much of the culture seems to be against them.Structure: The book is separated into four sections.1. Why Culture Matters. This section defines culture and gives reasons why Christians should care about culture and what happens in it. (Chapter 1. What Culture Is and What It Does to Us, 2. Keeping the Moment and the Story Straight, and 3. A Vision of Success).2. A Read of the Cultural Waters. Here the authors explain some of the underlying trends in our current culture and how we should think about them. (Chapter 4. The Information Age, 5. Identity After Christianity, 6. Being Alone Together, and 7. Castrated Gelding and Perpetual Adolescence)3. Pounding Cultural Waves. These are the individual things that are *trending* in our culture right now. In other words, a lot of this is about what people argue about on social media. (Chapter 8. Pornography, 9. The Hookup Culture, 10. Sexual Orientation, 11. Gender Identity, 12. Affluence and

Consumerism, 13. Addiction, 14. Entertainment, and 15. Racial Tension)4. Christian Worldview Essentials. This section finishes the book with essential skills/tools needed for Christians to prepare themselves to engage and mold the culture. (Chapter 16. How to Read the Bible, 17. Why to Trust the Bible, 18. The Right Kind of Pluralism, 19. Taking the Gospel to the Culture)What it does well: *This book defines and explains culture well. Culture is something we all think we know, but is incredibly difficult to explain. Stonestreet and Kunkle navigate this obstacle commendably. In defining and explaining their view of culture they enable the reader to understand their prescriptions throughout the book.*This book is not full of alarmism. Many books of this type from similar sorts of authors are pessimistic and "sky is falling" tomes. This is not true here. Throughout the work the authors do not shy away from pointing out what they think is going wrong in the culture, but there is always an undertone of hope. In fact, the hope they have often moves from being an undertone to downright, in your face hope. It was incredibly refreshing to read a book on culture by Christians that wasn't condemning of the culture. Instead they want to redeem and restore it.*The authors avoid being overly partisan. It is clear these authors are conservative both theologically and politically. However, they are quick to criticize some sacred cows of their own camp. Two examples come quickly to mind. First, in the chapter on racism they are quite critical of the common conservative retort "All lives matter" to the Black lives matter movement. Stonestreet and Kunkle rightly explain that "yes, all lives matter-including preborn ones-but we ought not give the impression that we aren't carefully listening to the concerns of those specific fellow image bearers who believe their value is being dismissed"-290. Another example is when the authors attack much of the method people use for reading the Bible. They rightly criticize reading the Bible by wrenching verses, stories, and even whole books from their context. It is not a magic book and we should spend time actually reading and studying it, not finding prooftexts for our pet issues.*Also, this book is hugely practical. This should go without saying because the title is A Practical Guide to Culture. However, this book has its finger on the pulse of culture in ways many similar books attempt but never reach. Stonestreet and Kunkle give "action steps" for everything they write about.*Lastly (though there is a lot more done well), this book is permeated with scripture. It almost oozes with scripture. There are at least 164 direct references to scripture and many more indirect references. This was very nice because it would have been easy to write this book without the counsel of scripture. However, the authors were not content with the easy job. They wanted to show they have wrestled with this subject in light of God's word.*There is a lot more that is done well, but to explain more is beyond the scope of this review.What it lacks: *This book is not as nuanced as Niebuhr's Christ and Culture or Carson's Christ and Culture Revisited nor as academic as Myer's Understanding the Culture, but to be fair it

isn’t meant to be. This is a practical guide to culture and it reads that way.*One thing I have a small problem with is the discussion of "calling" at the very end of the book. The authors define calling in a common way that I wrestle with. They see calling as the intersection where our vocation and our worship or mission are most effective and most gratifying. Now, I would hope people are effective in their mission and gratified in their work, however, I am not sure this is the biblical definition of calling. As I read the Bible, it looks like we all have the same calling and we can fulfill that calling in any place as long as it isn’t inherently sinful. Also, the authors quote Frederick Buechner in saying (in a roundabout manner) that it is unlikely we are fulfilling our mission and worship if our "work is writing TV deodorant commercials." Now the authors may not agree with Buechner wholesale here, but I think it is entirely possible to write deodorant commercials for God’s glory.Some quick highlights: "Too many Christians have a tendency to react to what is loudest and noisiest in our culture, which often means overreacting to what isn’t ultimately important and underreacting to what is."-21"...culture’s greatest influence is in what it presents as being normal. Clearly, not all that seems normal ought to be, but what is left unexamined is also left unchallenged."-28"Culture tends to shape us most deeply by what it presents as normal. We are creatures of cultural habit. Our loves, our longings, our loyalties, and our labors can become products of the liturgies our culture imposes. We live according to them but rarely think through them. Unintentionally, we become culture shaped rather than intentional about shaping culture."-39"Telling us ’That’s bad, so stay away’ didn’t work"-42"Asking ’Where do I draw the line?’-called the line approach to culture-is too simplistic to be helpful. First, not everything labeled Christian is good, and not everything labeled secular is bad. Much that is labeled Christian-movies, songs, leaders, schools, churches, ministries, and organizations-fails to reach basic levels of excellence and honesty. And much that is labeled secular accurately portrays fallen humanity, displays artistic genius, and brings good to the world. As Gregory Thornbury, the president of The King’s College, is fond of saying, ’’Christian’ is the greatest of all possible nouns and lamest of all possible adjectives.’ It’s meant to describe a person, not a thing."-45"We often think of compromise when it comes to beliefs and behaviors, but a particularly subtle temptation is to compromise in our methods."-70"The ignore-controversial-subjects-and-they’ll-go-away approach to raising kids won’t do. In the information age, plenty of voices are willing to talk with our kids if we aren’t."-82-83"The issue of trust is complicated only if kids think that so-called Christian authorities are untrustworthy."-83"...if we don’t know whom it is we are educating and whom they should become, education devolves into a disconnected hodgepodge of classes, skill acquisition, test taking, activities, and degrees. Now think of fashion, business, public policy, health care, biomedical ethics, or even youth groups. We

won’t know what to do in these areas if we aren’t first clear on who humans are. And it’s clear we aren’t clear about that."-102"Instruction is necessary, of course, but discipleship happens not when we talk at our kids but when we walk with them through their struggles to a place of commitment."-110"Our kids learn their tech habits from us."-120"In many ways, adolescence is now-and this must not be missed-the goal of our culture. Somewhere along the way, we ceased to be a culture where kids aspire to be adults, and we became a culture where adults aspire to be kids, or at least adolescents, forever."-133"Rules can provide wise and appropriate boundaries, but following rules shouldn’t be confused with Christian maturity. Rules can’t show us the heart of a person. While rules may help limit the bad influences and temptations ’out there’ they leave unaddressed the problems ’in here,’ in the human heart."-138"Can we Christians stop not talking about sex, please? For too long, we’ve let other voices direct and dominate the cultural conversation on sex. Much of the church’s contribution has been to shout ’Don’t do it!’ from the margins of society. We’ve given the impression that Christianity has a negative view of sex. But God’s story offers so much more than a simple no to unsanctioned sex. For every prohibition, there is a beautiful, life-giving yes!"-173-174"The goal for Christians isn’t to be blind to color but to embrace the distinctive qualities and uniqueness of God’s image bearers."-290"Rather than reject God’s exclusive plan, we should be grateful in the way a diseased patient rejoices when a cure is found. The redemption and restoration we have through the exclusive means of Jesus’ death and resurrection are cause for celebration. That’s why it’s called the gospel-it’s good news."-327Recommendation?: I highly recommend this book. Stonestreet and Kunkle have clearly explained their view of how Christians can navigate in today’s culture. They do this by advocating to challenge and influence the culture, not by withdrawal or wholesale acceptance of culture. This is a book that is useful for anyone who cares about their own influence or their kid’s spirituality. I can only hope that it is updated every few years to keep up with the issues in the culture of the time.

World View may be a new term to you but as a parent, there can be fewer terms that should be as important to you. Stonestreet and Kunkel have done parents a huge service by offering a book that is grounded in the gospel, easy to read and profoundly practical. If you are a parent of teens or soon to be teens you must read this book both for your own understand and for the practical outworking that understanding brings for your child. Such a good book. Such a needed book.

There are many good, practical ideas in this book to help parents help their children to think Biblically in today’s culture.

Anyone raising children should study this book!

Great book. Very helpful

This is a great book for parents trying to help their kids get ready for college and life.

This new and very up-to-date release by Christian youth and cultural ministry experts John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle should be at the top of the list for every parent, youth minister, and campus minister.This book is a unified blend of biblical instruction -- focusing on the Story of God's work on earth, from creation through the fall, redemption, and restoration -- and wisdom on contemporary issues and movements in culture ranging from sexuality to consumerism and racism. One of its chief virtues is the practical advice offered at the end of each chapter in Part Three (the section on "Pounding Cultural Waves").Books on Christianity and culture cover quite a spectrum. Some urge Christians to ride along with cultural movements for the sake of "relevance." Others at an opposite extreme are almost uniformly judgmental. I won't say this book strikes a balance between the two; it doesn't try. There's no mid-point on most issues where "everything is just right." Pornography, for example, is just wrong, and these two authors spare no words in saying so.Yet for every troubling issue, they add a word of "Hopecasting," reminding readers that God is still at work in the world, even where things appear beyond his work. Besides that, it includes an entire section on Christians' role in the world: how we can make a difference; what our salvation is for, both here on earth and in eternity.These are positive features of the book, but I haven't touched yet on why you really need to read it. Hopecasting is great when we look for God at work, but too many youth today are growing up biblically unequipped to see him, overwhelmed by anti-Christian cultural pressures, and unconvinced that Christianity provides truth that's really true -- and will really prove true for them in particular.Meanwhile too many churches and too many parents are short on the resources it takes to give them that equipping. The result: many young people waver in their Christian practice, trying to fit Christianity and pre-marital sex together, to draw on just one example from the book. A large proportion of them walk away from the faith completely.And as the dad of two grown children, I can only imagine how painful it would have been to see that happen -- and especially if I knew I hadn't done what I could do to head it off.Parents, we are responsible. (Pastors and youth ministers share in that responsibility with us, so it makes sense for them to read this material, too.) The task might seem overwhelming, but this book provides the clear, practical sort of

wisdom you can use to give your kids the best chance of staying strong in Christ as they grow up and move on in the world.(This review was based on an Advance Reading Copy sent with no obligation or expectation.)

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