

Tim Stevens
Pop Goes the Church

Don't do church and be oblivious to the culture.

Why leverage the culture?

People are on an inner-search for purpose/God.

They are taking steps on their spiritual journeys, but not always including the church.

1. Most churches aren't impacting their communities.

- the church is often the problem, the hurdle
- 3 categories: churchd/un-churchd/de-churchd

2, Spiritual interest is growing in our culture.

- "growing number of Americans are recognizing a need to develop their inner life..."
- 86% said they can have a relationship with God without being involved or attending a local church

\\I'm not ready to give up on the church. Let's get these two interests together.

John 1:14 - Christ became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.

Jesus would leverage culture: read our books, read our magazines, see our movies, listen to our music. He would use that to reach and penetrate hearts.

Use secular music not to give answers but to raise questions. wrap biblical topics in social/secular packaging.

The biblical rightness/wrongness of leveraging the culture.

Acts 17:15 - Paul in Greece; he used their culture to reach them. (Mars Hill). He then goes on to quote famous lyrics (Epimenodes) from a Greek poet. "for in him we live and move and have our being."

Leverage the culture or we risk losing.

a picture really is worth a million words. - USE THEM!

Four examples of ways to use pop culture:

- 1. Use pop culture to package a topic and attract a crowd.**
- 2. Use pop culture to get people thinking or laughing**
- 3. Use pop culture to provide a new interpretation for a popular cultural element**
 - a. re-interpret or re-communicate

4. Use pop culture elements to encourage the people who are making the ministry happen.

Question: when is a time you guys used pop culture and it failed miserably or backfired?