



Week One

September 11, 2016

Woodbury Lutheran Church

Pastor Mark Koschmann

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1: 9-11

WLC Class Objectives:

- 1) Apply our Christian faith to the most pressing of issues today.
- 2) Equip ourselves for mission and ministry, especially in urban, suburban, and multicultural settings.
- 3) Grow as disciples of Jesus by placing a greater trust in Christ as our Lord and Savior. By trusting Jesus with our whole lives, we will - by the Spirit's power - more radically love and serve others.

Discuss: How would you change the world?

Christ and Culture Paradigms:

Christ against culture

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” - Colossians 3:1-4

Example:

Christ of culture

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” - Galatians 5:13

Example:

Christ and culture in paradox

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” - John 17:15-19

Example:

Sep. 11:
*Living as a
Disciple in
America*

Christ transforming culture

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8

Example:

Sep. 18:
*American
Politics*

Discuss: What insights have you gained from these categories and scriptural passages especially in your responsibilities and commitments as a disciple of Jesus?

Sep. 25:
War & Peace

Theology of the Cross

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV)



Oct. 2:
*Immigrants and
Refugees*

A Theology of Faithful Presence

Oct. 9:
*Black Lives
Matter*

“Against the present realities of our historical moment, it is impossible to say what can actually be accomplished. There are intractable uncertainties that cannot be avoided. Certainly Christians, at their best, will neither create a perfect world nor one that is altogether new; but by enacting shalom and seeking it on behalf of all others through the practice of faithful presence, it is possible, just possible, that they will help to make the world a little bit better.” - James Davison Hunter, *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity*, 286.

Oct. 16:
*The Messiness of
Social Justice &
the Beauty of the
Gospel*



“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.”

- Hebrews 13:14