



confessions of an urban mennonite

Culture is the name for what people are interested in, their thoughts, their models, the books they read and the speeches they hear, their table-talk, gossip, controversies, historical sense and scientific training, the values they appreciate, the quality of life they admire. All communities have a culture. It is the climate of their civilization.

- *Walter Lippmann*

I feel, and I suspect that most of us feel, a gap in our lives: a gap between our worldview and our way of life. Or to put this in more biblical terms, most of us sense a gap between our conscious commitment to Jesus Christ and the way we live out our lives.

- *Brian Walsh*

The greatest challenge the church faces today is to be authentic disciples of Jesus.

- *Dallas Willard*

Christian simplicity frees us from this modern mania. It brings sanity to our compulsive extravagance, and peace to our frantic spirit. It liberates us from what William Penn called 'cumber.' It allows us to see material things for what they are — goods to enhance life, not to oppress life. People once again become more important than possessions. Simplicity enables us to live lives of integrity in the face of the terrible realities of our global village...

- *Richard Foster*

We cannot maintain a good life of extravagance and a good conscience simultaneously. One or the other has to be sacrificed. Either we keep our conscience and reduce our affluence by giving generously and helping those in need, or we keep our affluence and smother our conscience. We have to choose between God and man.

- *John Stott*

We should travel light and live simply. Our enemy is not possessions but excess.

- *John Stott*

I am surrounded by priests who repeat incessantly that their kingdom is not of this world, and yet they lay their hands on everything they can get.

- *Napoleon Bonaparte*

True evangelical faith cannot lie sleeping, it clothes the naked, it comforts the sorrowful, it feeds the hungry, it shelters the destitute, it cares for the sick, it becomes all things to all people."

- *Menno Simons*

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

- *C. S. Lewis*

The decision to grow always involves a choice between risk and comfort. This means that to be a follower of Jesus you must renounce comfort as the ultimate value of your life.

- *John Ortberg*

The attention of the world might sometimes be elsewhere, but history is watching. It's taking notes. And it's going to hold us to account, each of us.

- *Bono*

The dedicated life is the life worth living. You must give with your whole heart.

- *Annie Dillard*

We must assess our thoughts and beliefs and reckon whether they are moving us closer to conformity to Christ or farther away from it.

- *John Ortberg*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- *The Apostle Paul, Romans 12:1-2 (TNIV)*