

Writing to Shape Culture (Before Culture Shapes You)

Three things we can observe about culture from Acts 17:16-20:

- **The first thing is he observed-** verse 16- “While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly **distressed to see** that the city was full of idols.” He paid attention to what was going on in his surroundings. When he realized culture was going against God, he did something about it.
- **The second thing is he reasoned-** Verse 16 says, “So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.”
- **The third thing Paul does is he goes where they are-** Verse 19-20 says, “Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” He didn’t condemn them for holding the wrong beliefs, he presented ideas that were “strange to their ears.” His ideas were not what they were used to hearing. He explains his ideas and preach because he doesn’t become combative or lose his opportunity to reach them.

The History of TV

- Although the first television image was shown on September 7, 1927, television did not become widely popular until the 40s and 50s. Shows like Howdy Doody that started in 1947, and other shows like I Love Lucy, Bonanza, Leave It to Beaver, etc. dictated what the quintessential family was like. These shows were on limited times during the day.
- In the 80s, groundbreaking shows pushed the envelope, upping the shock value. Roles begin to reverse.
- Bosom Buddies
- Married with Children
- Roseanne- reinvented what the typical family could look like.
- Female lead characters were no longer portrayed as ditzy or submissive but strong, sometimes main breadwinners
- Angela Bower on Who’s The Boss
- Maggie Seaver on Growing Pains
- Equality of pay and two income households were moving culture forward.

December 17, 1989

- one of the most talked about and controversial shows that year, becoming the longest running television show in history currently in its 34th year in production.
- In 2005, a sci- fi drama reinvented how we tell stories.
- told back story so audiences got to know characters on an island, what life was like off the island.
- Flashforwards

Core values

Core values are the intangible parts in life that matter most, to us from which we view our world and do with our actions.

- Integrity
- justice
- Loyalty
- Pro- authority
- Tradition

Other core values

- Honor (Saving Private Ryan, Good Morning Vietnam, every war movie)
- Love/desire (50 shades, Harlequin romance novel, Rom coms)
- Acceptance
- Hope (Hoosiers, Rudy, Champions,)
- Redemption
- Escape/adventure- (sci-fi, spec fiction, superhero movie)
- Integrity/morality (think Blue Bloods, Hill Street Blues)
- Justice (think John Grisham)

Exercise: what are you core values?

What is one step you will take to incorporate your core values into your writing?