

# Cultural Influences and Biblical Values

**Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. *Romans 12:2***

The values promoted in the culture around your children might contradict biblical teachings. Teens may feel torn between what society deems acceptable and what the Bible teaches, leading to internal conflicts about how to align their beliefs with their actions.

## ➤ **conversation starter**

Have you ever felt torn between what the world considers acceptable and what the Bible teaches? How do you think we can navigate this tension and stay true to biblical values?

In today's world, there are many different perspectives on what's right or wrong. How do you think we can discern and filter cultural influences through the lens of biblical truth?

## ➤ **navigating the conversation:**

- **Discuss Worldviews:** Help teens understand that cultural influences often stem from different worldviews and belief systems. Talk about the importance of comparing these influences with biblical principles.
- **Explore Biblical Principles:** Engage in discussions about specific biblical values, such as love, compassion, integrity, and honesty. Discuss how these principles can guide their decisions and actions in various situations.
- **Teach Discernment:** Encourage critical thinking and discernment by asking questions like, "How does this cultural influence align with what the Bible teaches?" or "What are the potential consequences of following this cultural trend?"
- **Provide Context:** Offer historical and cultural context to certain biblical passages or teachings that may help clarify their relevance in today's world.
- **Examine Cultural Messages:** Analyze media, advertisements, and popular trends together to identify potential conflicts with a biblical worldview. This helps teens become more aware of the messages they encounter daily.
- **Encourage Faithful Examples:** Share stories of individuals who lived out their faith courageously despite cultural pressures. This could include biblical figures or modern-day heroes of the faith.
- **Create a Safe Space:** Foster an environment where teens feel comfortable discussing their questions and concerns about cultural influences and how they align with their faith.
- **Teach Flexibility and Conviction:** Discuss the balance between adapting to cultural practices that are not in direct conflict with biblical values while remaining firm in areas where biblical principles are at stake.
- **Model Biblical Values:** Demonstrate biblical values in your actions and decisions, showing teens how to apply these principles in real-life situations.
- **Prayer and Seeking God's Will:** Emphasize the importance of prayer and seeking God's will in making decisions.

