

Overflow

The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins

The Gospel and Culture: a love/hate relationship? by Kelsi Johns

On October 18th, Dr. Metzger and Dr. Harper will be exploring the topics of gospel and culture in the New Wine, New Wineskins Autumn workshop. The Benefit Dinner on November 6th with keynote speaker Ron Marlette of Mission Solano (www.missionsolano.org) will also engage these issues. So why so much attention on the gospel and culture? Our theology is built upon a foundation that explicitly and implicitly communicates how we view culture in light of the gospel. This ultimately shapes the way we engage with people, and the world as a whole. Having a competent understanding of how these two go hand in hand is essential in effectively communicating the love of Christ in an engaging--not isolating or patronizing--manner.

I hear "the gospel" nearly every day as a seminary student. But really, what exactly is the gospel? That seemingly simple question leaves me with a deer-caught-in-the-headlights expression and scrambled mind. I should have a succinct, orthodox answer for that by now, right? Maybe it should be "who" is the gospel. I believe that Jesus, the son of God, as the crucified and risen Lord is the necessary apex. But what about beauty, worship, art and justice? Do these things fall under the umbrella of the gospel? I believe they can and do.

And what role does culture play? I don't want the gospel to be some abstract idea that I dance around, or am studying so closely that I miss the gospel forest for the theological trees. Ideally, our

lives (which are enmeshed in culture) should paint a picture of the gospel. If we were to do an interpretive dance of the gospel, would that look anything like how we "perform" our lives off stage? Does culture reflect the gospel, deflect the gospel, or both?

Thank the good Lord these issues will be addressed and explored during the workshop and benefit dinner. This is what New Wine is about: getting to the heart of these issues, and wrestling with how to live this gospel out in tangible, contextual ways. We comprise our culture. And hopefully our lives--in community--exhibit Christ. So how do the two--gospel and culture--work together for his glory? In my opinion, that's when it gets good. The question before us is not

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A Word From the Director by Paul Louis Metzger

This autumn, New Wine, New Wineskins will be focusing on the gospel's relation to culture. No easy task! Some of the key questions we'll be engaging are "What is the gospel?" and "What should the church's relation to culture be?" While we'll offer answers to these questions, it will take us a lifetime to live out these questions and answers as Christ's kingdom community! Please join Brad Harper and me on October 18th for the "Gospel and Culture" workshop. Also approaching

is our 4th Annual Benefit Dinner on November 6th. Our goal for both events is to assist the church in its efforts to serve as a redemptive force in culture, presenting the whole gospel to the whole person in the whole community. At New Wine, New Wineskins, we are committed to raising up a new generation of Christ-followers who will be salt and light in our world, serving as a preserving and penetrating witness to God's holy love. Please partner with us! ■



Dr. Paul Louis Metzger is Professor of Christian Theology and Theology of Culture at Multnomah Biblical Seminary and Director of The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins.

Upcoming Events

October 3

New Wine Forum

10:00-11:00 AM

Multnomah A-Frame

Lets define the relationship! ...between Gospel and culture. Open discussion will be led by Tony Kriz exploring the ways gospel and culture do or do not intersect.

October 18

Gospel, Church, and Culture Workshop

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Multnomah Biblical Seminary

November 6

4th Annual Benefit Dinner

Keynote Speaker Ron Marlette will speak on the whole Gospel in the context of today's culture.

Contact Sarah Kurth at newwine@multnomah.edu

Ongoing Immersion

Monday Night Dinners

Mondays 6:00-8:00pm

2741 SE 87th Ave, Portland

Contact Ross Halbach at ross.halbach@gmail.com

Mentorship

Engage the community of SE Portland by vonuteering at Clark K-8 @ Binnsmead.

Contact Ben Malick at silver.smith@hotmail.com

For more event information, please visit new-wineskins.org!

Top 5 Ways You Can Partner with New Wine, New Wineskins

Attend events

New Wine periodically holds forums, workshops, and conferences. They are open to the public and very affordable if not free!

Volunteer your time and skills

New Wine needs volunteers throughout the year for special event preparation as well as graphic design, multimedia, and web development.

Volunteer to help with Conferences

This year's conference, "Created to Create" will focus on faith and the arts. See the website for more information on how you can help.

Subscribe to the Journal
Cultural Encounters—A Journal for the Theology of Culture features articles and cultural reflections that aim to provide a biblically informed, Christ-centered, Trinitarian engagement of contemporary culture.

Partner Financially

Online: Go to www.multnomah.edu and click on "Donate Now!"
By mail: Send a check made out to New Wine, New Wineskins

Contact New Wine!

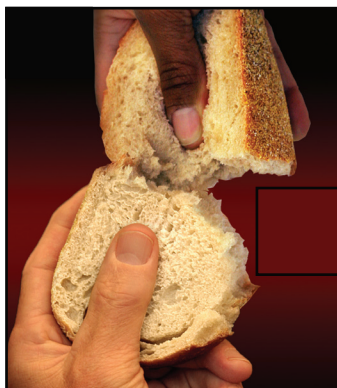
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The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine, New Wineskins, directed by Dr. Paul Louis Metzger, is an official program of Multnomah Biblical Seminary and is dedicated to bearing witness to Christ in contemporary culture.

New Wine Autumn Workshop "Gospel, Church and Culture" October 18

Dr. Paul Louis Metzger and Dr. Brad Harper will be speaking about how the church is to minister in culture as the triune God's kingdom community. Their talks are based on their forthcoming book with Brazos: *Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction* (2009). Metzger and Harper will address such questions as "What is the gospel?" "What should the church's relation to culture be?" and "What difference does it make for the church in its ministry in the broader culture that it is the triune God's kingdom community?"

Tony Kriz will serve as the MC for the workshop. There will be ample time for Q&A during the proceedings. As Christ-followers committed to Christ's church's missional outreach, it is important that we exegete rightly the Bible as well as the culture into which we seek to communicate the gospel. Please join us, and help us wrestle with these important issues! Suggested donation: \$5.00 per individual. The workshop will take place at Multnomah Biblical Seminary. ■



Hungry for dialogue? Check out consumingjesus.org!



Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture
Subscribe online at www.culturalencounters.org today!

The Wine Press: Feel Free to Whine by Rachel O'Brien

We want you to whine a little. This column is a chance for you to express yourself and the struggles or issues you face in seeking to live out the Gospel. We at New Wine believe that God sends all of Christ's followers into the world to bless it, to change it, to live and to love in it as salt and light. We exist to make known issues of importance to Christ and Scripture. We desire to motivate the Church as a whole to act, pray, and think about where God in

Christ stands on cultural issues. And finally we mobilize, enabling both students and those around us to interact and engage people and the world with biblical conviction and Christ-centered compassion. Each issue will take one of your questions and address it from a New Wine perspective. I look forward to dialoguing with you, knowing that we have a mighty God and beautiful Savior who helps us engage whatever comes our way. ■

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simple. And, because the gospel is so profound and beautiful, it does not warrant a quick, simply answer. This would only limit Christ's love, and show a partial gospel.

Once we have a competent understanding of the way the gospel and culture work together, it is only then when I think we can securely communicate to others what is so compelling about the gospel. Are we fanning the flame of this little light of ours by engaging culture and issues (which essentially are bound up with people), or are we cupping it with our hands, fearful that this light might wake up the neighbors, or be extinguished by the issues

of today? I pray, that with humility and a prayerfully opened mind, we can embrace these issues so as to reflect the light of Christ for all to see—not just the select few. ■



Kelsi Johns is a student at Multnomah Biblical Seminary. She spends much of her time exploring the beautiful city of Portland and writing for New Wine and its affiliated blog, consumingjesus.org. She can be contacted at kjohns1@multnomah.edu