

**The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer**  
**Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land**  
1 Peter, 2 Peter, Christian Vocation, and the Table of Duties

**15 Popular Culture VS. The Life of the Church**

**Introduction—**

The Apostle Peter warns of a culture that is completely devoid of God and that rejects the goodness God's love—a culture that is self-absorbed and full of covetousness, carousing, adultery, licentiousness, and pollution of every sort (2 Peter 2:12-22). The pop culture promises liberty but creates slaves of corruption that rejects the life that is found in Christ. We need to shield our children from these influences at the youngest ages, then we need to carefully and lovingly critique the culture in light of the Gospel and the goodness we know as they mature.

**Influences of the Popular Culture—**

- **Social Media** allows for the sharing of information, opinion, and personal information on an unprecedented scale. It has become an instrument for the swift dissemination of Anti-Christian dogma (radical environmentalism, Woke ideology, Critical Race Theory, LGBTQ theology, Gender identity politics, etc.) It is an avenue that enhances the capacity for the transgression of Fourth Commandment Honor. It is rife with slander, gossip, and malicious rhetoric contrary to the Eighth Commandment. It creates a sub-culture that is often counter to marriage, family, community, and church.
- **Internet World of Instant Access to information and pornographic images that titillate the flesh.** Godless information and opportunities to engage in the activities of fornication have always been available, but it required greater effort to access it. Now it is available by the click of a mouse.
- **Counter-Christian Culture of the Television and Movie Industry** that display with increasing frequency the glamour and acceptance of gay and transgender lifestyles, and the theology that undermines Biblical concepts of masculinity, femininity, marriage, and family. (Depictions in commercials of happy gay relationships)
- **The Media** which is the mouthpiece of the latest anti-Christian and anti-western propaganda. Christian ideals are ridiculed, made fun of, and treated as if they are unenlightened at best or bigoted and destructive at worst. The “it takes a village” utopian ideas of child-rearing promoted by the left-wing media destroy the biblical concept of family, stripping parents of their parental rights and promoting the “soft-totalitarianism” of the public schools, corporate medicine, and the “not-so-soft totalitarianism” of government control and the loss of religious freedom.
- **Conservative Talk Radio** is an opportunity for conservative Christians to be sucked into a lifestyle of division and unhealthy anti-Christian rhetoric toward family members, coworkers, and neighbors with whom we disagree. (Freedom of Speech may be a right under the Bill of Rights, but among Christians our freedom of speech is governed by the Word of God, love, and the Gospel).
- **The Top 40—The Songs that Shape the Story of Our Culture in Young People**
  - #1 – Heat Waves by Glass Animals
  - #2 – STAY by Justin Bieber

No Self-Censoring of the basest of appetites, desires, and the rhetoric that expresses these things characterizes our age.

The Christian Story has been replaced by the Hedonistic Self-absorbed Story of a Godless Age.

**The Life of the Church-What characterizes her?**

1. **The Church's Song**, the great hymnody of the church that supports our children, passes on the faith, and serves us in our old age.

Example: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart" – LSB 708

2. **The Story of the Faith**, the rich and serious attentiveness to the narrative of the Gospel of God's love in Christ and how that creates faith and shapes the lives of the baptized faithful. (So important for children and is foundational for everyone. It presents an alternative to the incessant drumbeat of the contemporary pop culture).

Example: "Joseph, the Husband of Mary" – Matthew 1:18-25

Example: "Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet" – John 13:1-15

3. **The Culture of Catechesis and Prayer Centered around the Divine Service**

Daily prayer

Weekly meditation upon the catechism

Confession and Absolution Privately

Pastoral Care centered around repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

The centrality of the Holy Communion to which our catechesis leads and from which the life of faith branches forth in love for the community of faith and the world.

Example: Jim's Funeral, Mary Ellen's Hymn request for "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is" LSB 372/TLH 81