



The Nehemiah Challenge Nehemiah 4:14

“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the LORD, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

WHAT IS CULTURE?

Culture is _____

Genesis 1:27 – 28 – ²⁷ God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them . . . ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it!”

SUBDUE = “*To bring under one’s control for one’s advantage.*”

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILIES?

* Recognize that we live in a _____

Nehemiah 4:1 – 3 – ¹ When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, ² and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

“The most dangerous ideas in a society are not the ones that are being argued, but the ones that are assumed.” C. S. Lewis

* We live in a _____ environment
_____ age

“The endless cycle of idea and action, endless invention, endless experiment, brings knowledge of motion, but not of stillness; knowledge of speech, but not of silence; knowledge of words, and ignorance of the Word. All our knowledge brings us nearer to death, but nearness to death no nearer to God. Where is the Life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?” (*The Rock*, T. S. Eliot)

Age of _____

Culture's power is what it portrays to be normal. Culture isn't most powerful where it's the loudest . . . it is most powerful and influential in shaping us where it is unexamined and unchallenged.

* Cultivate _____

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”
Ronald Reagan

* Build a _____ around yourself and your family and try to keep all the bad things out

Chinese Proverb: “If you want to know what water is don't ask the fish.” Culture is to humans what water is to fish: it's the environment we live in and think is normal.

* Cultivate a _____

* Pray

I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their *swords*, *spears* and *bows*. (Nehemiah 4:13)

¹⁷ Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a *weapon* in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his *sword* at his side as he worked. (Nehemiah 4:17 & 18)

. . . we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there.” (Nehemiah 4:19 & 20)

The battle in which we are engaged is a _____