

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.”

When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

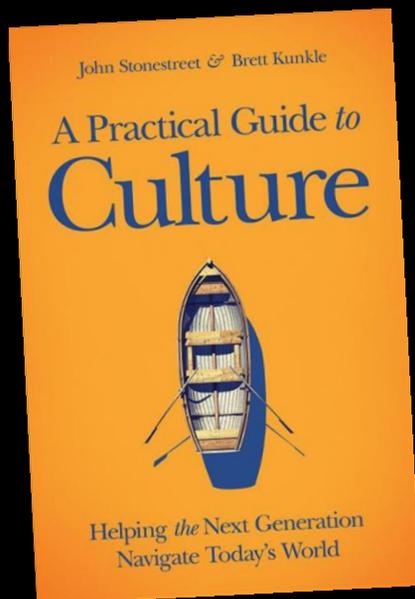
Nehemiah 2:10

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

What is Culture?

The word, Culture, comes from the Latin word *cultura*, which means “agriculture.” If plowing, tilling, and cultivating come to mind, they should. In its most basic sense, culture refers to what people do with the world: we build, we invent, we imagine, we create, we tear down, we replace, we compose, we design, we emphasize, we dismiss, we embellish, we engineer.



A Practical Guide to Culture, John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle

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!”

Culture is what humans make of the world.

Genesis 1:27 - 28

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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.”

NET Bible Notes

Genesis 1:27 - 28

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Nehemiah 4:14

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?

RECOGNIZE THAT WE LIVE IN A
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT



“The problem of leading a Christian life in a non-Christian society is now very present to us . . . And as for the Christian who is *not conscious* of his dilemma—and he is in the majority—he is becoming more and more de-Christianized by all sorts of *unconscious pressure*: paganism holds all the most valuable advertising space.”

T. S. Eliot, *The Idea of a Christian Society*

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



C. S. Lewis

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Nehemiah 4:14

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?

RECOGNIZE THAT WE LIVE IN A
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

WE LIVE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING
ENVIRONMENT

One of the most tsunami-like changes in our
culture is the information age



(Team Gwava, *“How Much Data Is Created on the Internet Each Day?”*
Gwava (blog), September 8, 2016)



“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?”

T. S. Eliot, *The Rock*

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The age of ideas

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.

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RECOGNIZE THAT WE LIVE IN A
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ENVIRONMENT

CULTIVATE POLITICAL POWER

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



HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?

RECORDING A WALL IN A

WE LIVING CHANGING

CULTURE POLITICAL POWER

BUILD A WALL AROUND YOURSELF
AND YOUR FAMILY

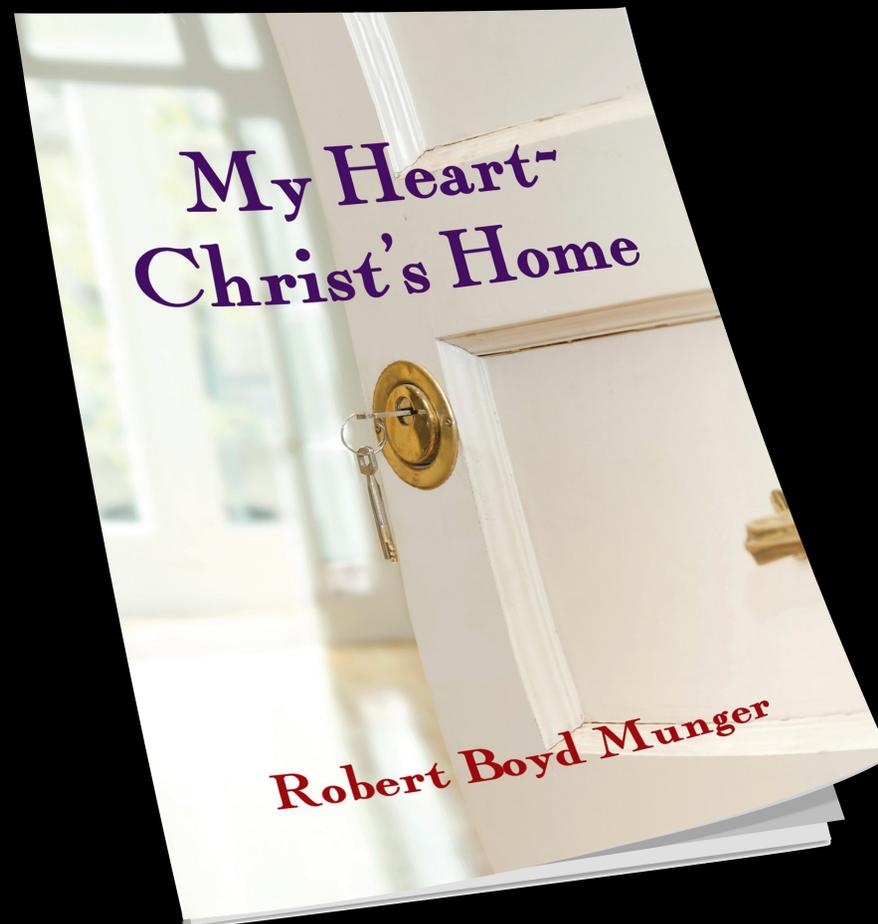


Chinese Proverb:

“If you want to know what water is
don't ask the fish.”

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?
EFFECTIVELY

CULTIVATE A NEW HEART



HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY? **EFFECTIVELY**

CULTIVATE A NEW HEART

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

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY? **EFFECTIVELY**

CULTIVATE A NEW HEART

PRAY

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

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY? **EFFECTIVELY**

PRAY

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

HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY? **EFFECTIVELY**

PRAY

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



THE NEHEMIAH CHALLENGE

NEHEMIAH 4:14

Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet,
join us there and pray that, our God . . . the
LORD, who is great and awesome . . . will
fight for us.