

# CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR  
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

**SECRET #2:  
DETERMINE TO INFLUENCE  
YOUR CULTURE**  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES

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**Introduction:** Today we are going to discover the second secret Elijah illustrates for living an extraordinary life: influencing your culture. History shows that those who want to experience a significant life strive to influence the world, rather than isolate themselves from the world.

## **I. God's Mandate To Care For The Culture** (Genesis 2:15)

**A. Definition of Culture:** Culture is what human beings make of this world.

Genesis 2:15 "Then LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it."

**B. Your Place in the Culture** (Ephesians 2:10)

Ephesians 2:10 "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

## **II. Cultivating Your Culture**

## **III. Christians Who Fail To Influence Their Culture**

**A. Silo Saints**

1. **A false dichotomy between the sacred and the secular**
2. **A false understanding of God's sovereignty**

Psalm 103:19 “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all.”

Matthew 6:9-10 <sup>9</sup> “...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

**B. Spiritual Sellouts (2 Timothy 4:10)**

1. **Their reluctance to recognize sin**
2. **Their adherence to political correctness**

2 Timothy 4:10 “Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;”

**IV. Isolation Versus Influence (1 Corinthians 5:9-11; John 17:11, 14-17)**

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 <sup>9</sup> “I wrote you in my [earlier] letter not to associate with immoral people; <sup>10</sup> I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a person.”

John 17:11, 14-17 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> “Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. <sup>14</sup> And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to this world any more than I do. <sup>17</sup> Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.”

Conclusion