

Tim Stewart

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Parkdale Evangelical
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Evangelical Free Church of Canada

- *In essentials unity,
in non-essentials
charity,
in all things
Jesus Christ*

Evangelical Free Church of Canada

the
EFCC
Motto



“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:20-21 NIV

Stories...

*Feel the
tension?*



IF YOU
CAN READ
THIS SIGN



YOU ARE
TOO CLOSE

Christianity & Culture: *4 Views of a Smoldering Issue*

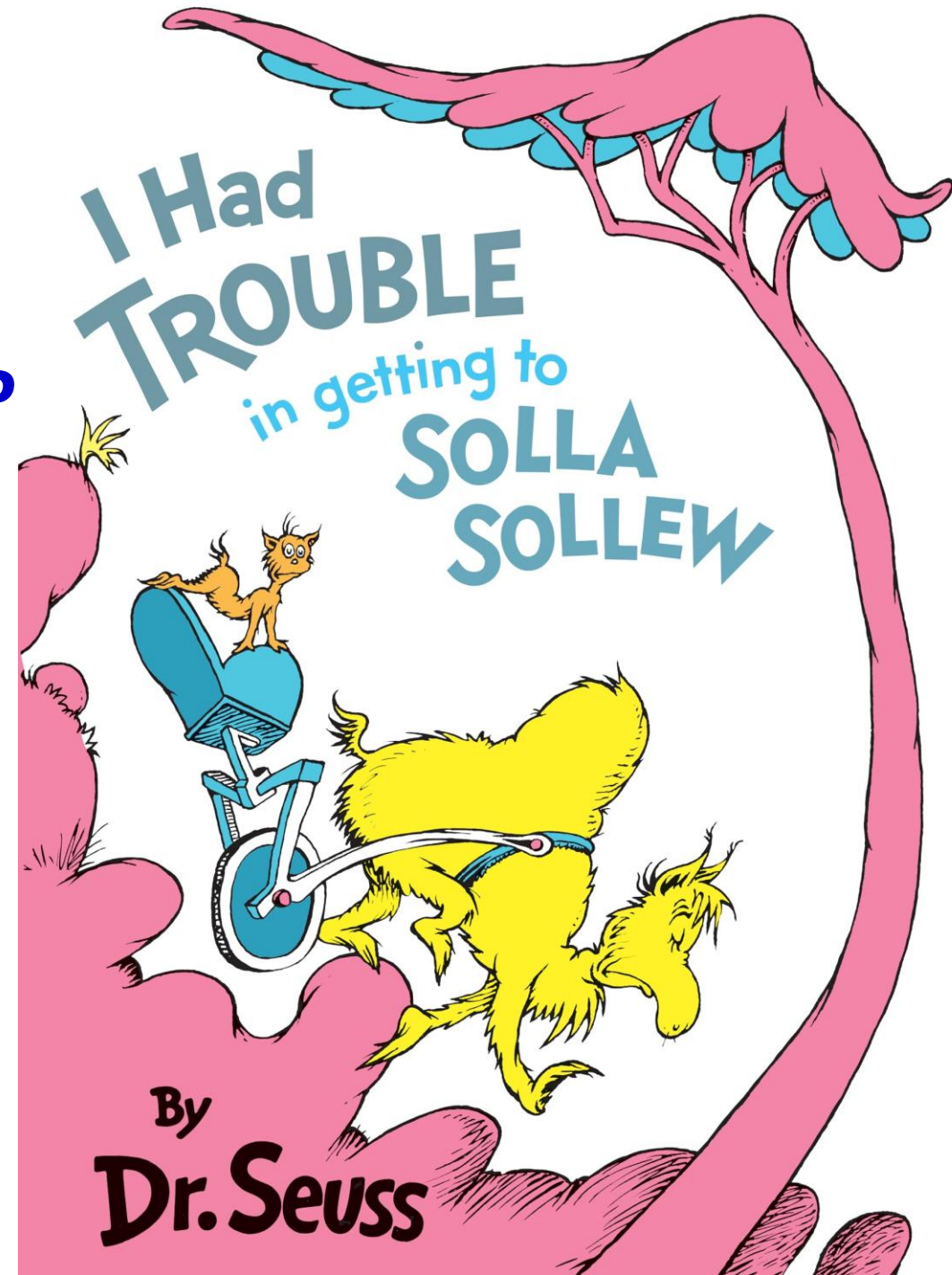
**Less about doctrine
More about culture**

***Why? What is
happening here?***



Ideal vs. Reality

- *How do we sort through the problems & work together?*



“Theological Triage”

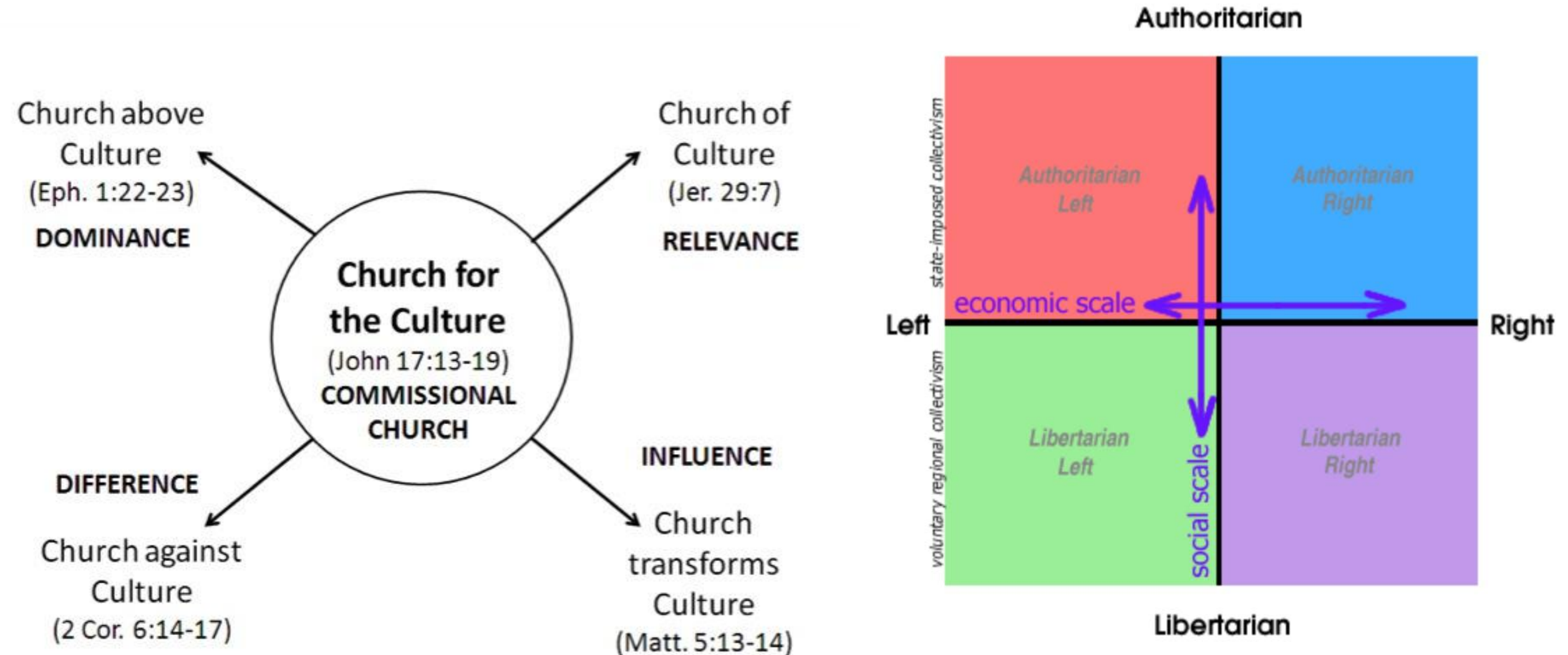
- 1. Essential to Gospel**
(what it means to be Christian)
- 2. Urgent for Church Practice**
(functional, group distinctives)
- 3. Important for Theology, not Unity**
(agree to disagree; cooperate)
- 4. Not important; Bible silent**
(interest, preference, culture)

Gavin Ortland

**FINDING
THE
RIGHT HILLS
TO
DIE ON**

The Case for Theological Triage

The Need for a Paradigm



Christianity & Culture: *Stances*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)		
Optimistic (in)		

Christianity & Culture: *Motivations*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)	Subculture - <i>Refuge, flight</i> - <i>Preservation</i> - <i>Holiness, purity</i>	Counterculture - <i>Retake, fight</i> - <i>Confrontation</i> - <i>Justice, power</i>
Optimistic (in)	Contributing - <i>Reconcile, bridge</i> - <i>Cooperation</i> - <i>Compassion, peace</i>	Creating - <i>Renew, build</i> - <i>Transformation</i> - <i>Truth, love</i>

CHRISTIAN
CONVERSION &
AUTHENTIC
TRANSFORMATION



BEGINNING WELL

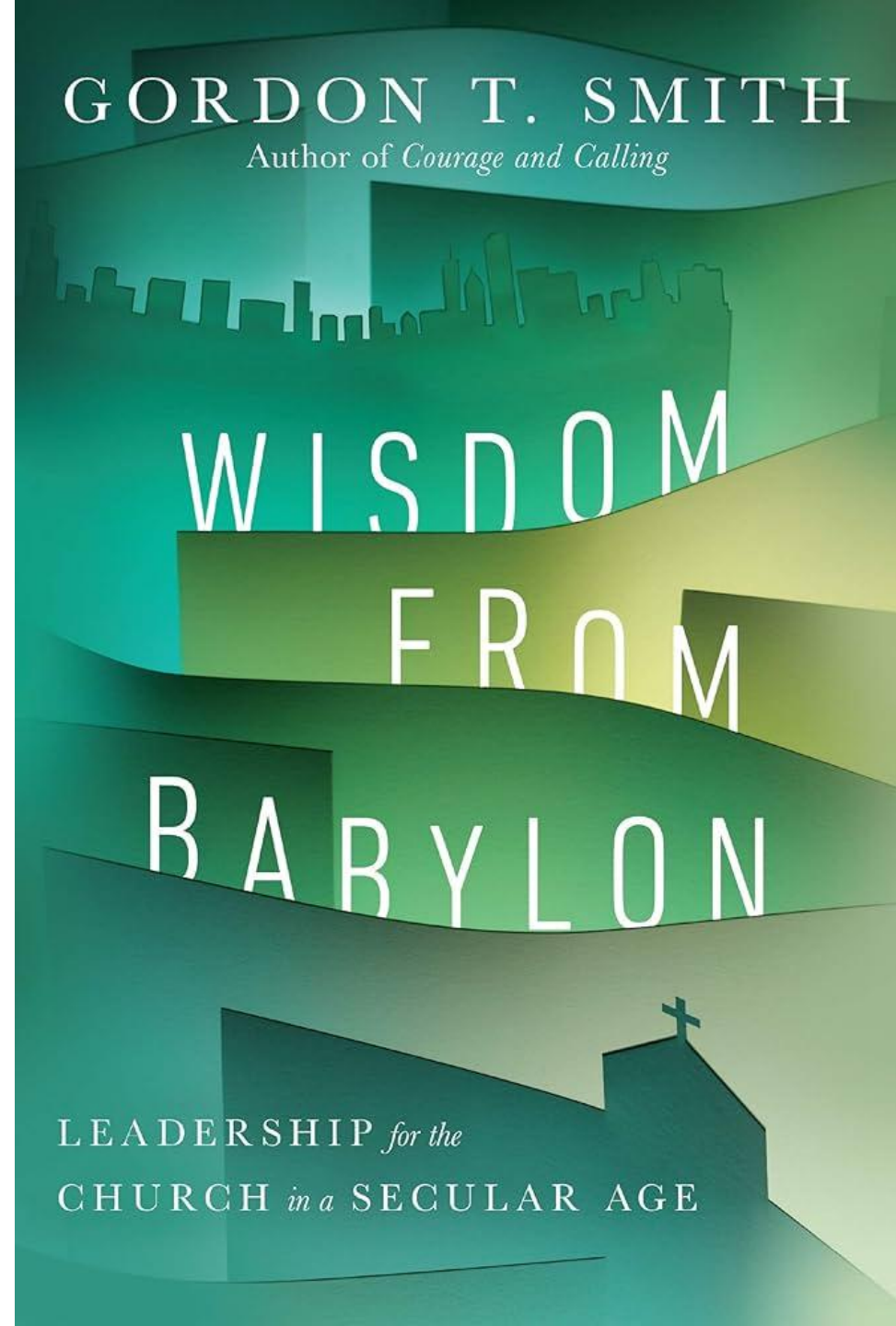
GORDON T. SMITH



GORDON T. SMITH
Author of Courage and Calling

WISDOM FROM BABYLON

LEADERSHIP *for the*
CHURCH *in a* SECULAR AGE



Christianity & Culture: *In Canada*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)	“Monastic” - Rod Dreher, <i>preserve, alternate communities</i>	“Culture Wars” - Political victory, <i>retake ground</i>
Optimistic (in)	“Go along to get along” - Demanded by <i>culture</i>	“Faithful Presence” - David Fitch, <i>transform from within</i>

Christianity & Culture: *In Scripture*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)	Seeking Refuge - <i>Psalm 62</i> - <i>1 John 2:16</i> - <i>Luke 5:16</i>	Seeking Victory - <i>1 Corinthians 15:20-28</i> - <i>Matthew 13:31-32</i> - <i>Ephesians 1:18-23</i>
Optimistic (in)	Seeking Peace - <i>Matthew 13:24-43</i> - <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i> - <i>Romans 13:1-4</i>	Seeking Mission - <i>Matthew 5:13-16</i> - <i>1 Peter 2:11-12</i> - <i>John 17:15-18</i>

Christianity & Culture: *Examples*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)	Israel: Essenes Bible: Abraham Church: Monastic <i>Retreats, camps</i>	Israel: Zealots Bible: Prophets Church: Crusades <i>Wilberforce, MLK Jr.</i>
Optimistic (in)	Israel: Sadducees Bible: Joseph, Daniel Church: Hospitals <i>Housing projects</i>	Israel: Pharisees Bible: Apostles Church: Missions <i>Bible translation</i>

Christianity & Culture:

School Selection

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)		
Optimistic (in)		



Christianity & Culture:

Church Buildings

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)		
Optimistic (in)		



Christianity & Culture:

Outreach

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)		
Optimistic (in)		



Christianity & Culture: *Examples*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)	Homeschool Reverent Church Come & See	Private School Church Programs Lobby & Legislate
Optimistic (in)	Public School Church Rentals Common Ground	School Outreach Church Storefront Salt & Light

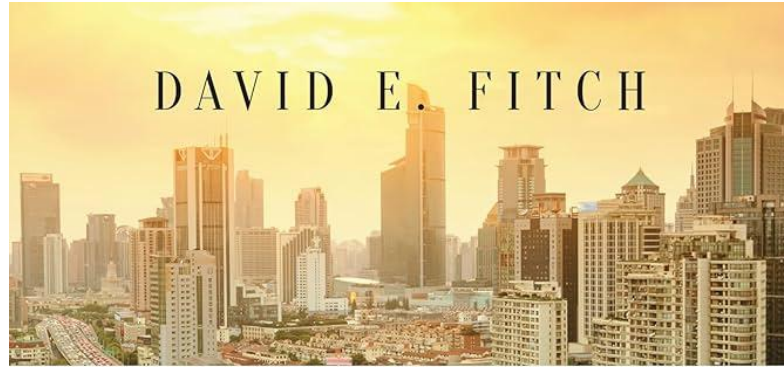
Christianity & Culture: *Considerations*

	Passive (coexist)	Active (change)
Pessimistic (out)	Purity <i>Irrelevance</i> <i>Attrition</i>	Deliverance <i>Hostility</i> <i>Collateral Damage</i>
Optimistic (in)	Patience <i>Codependence</i> <i>Conformity</i>	Witness <i>Savior Complex</i> <i>Fatigue</i>

**THERE IS A TIME
FOR EVERYTHING,
AND
A SEASON
FOR EVERY
ACTIVITY UNDER
THE HEAVENS.**

- ECCLESIASTES 3:1





DAVID E. FITCH

FAITHFUL PRESENCE

SEVEN DISCIPLINES THAT SHAPE
THE CHURCH FOR MISSION



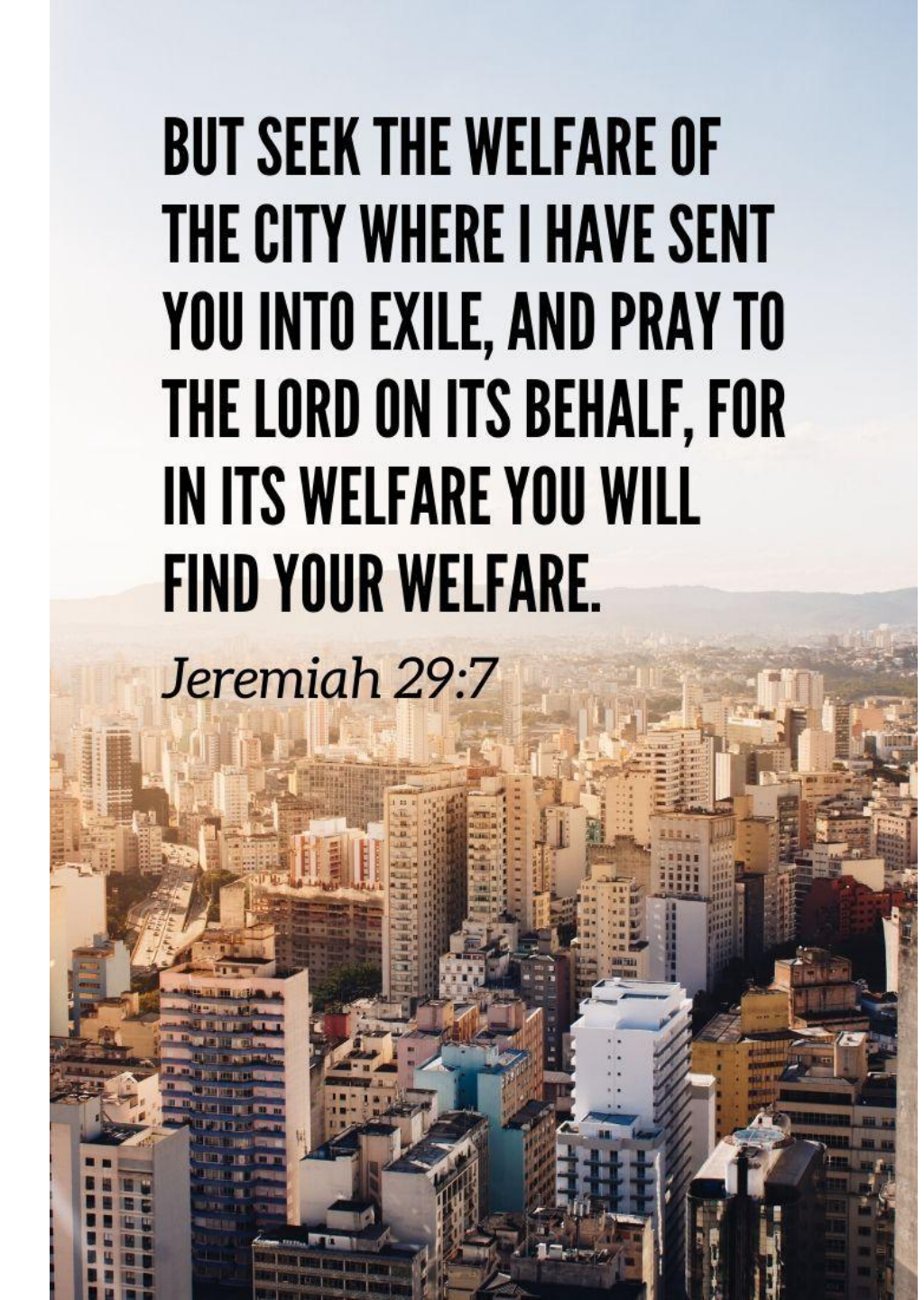
ANDY CROUCH



CULTURE MAKING

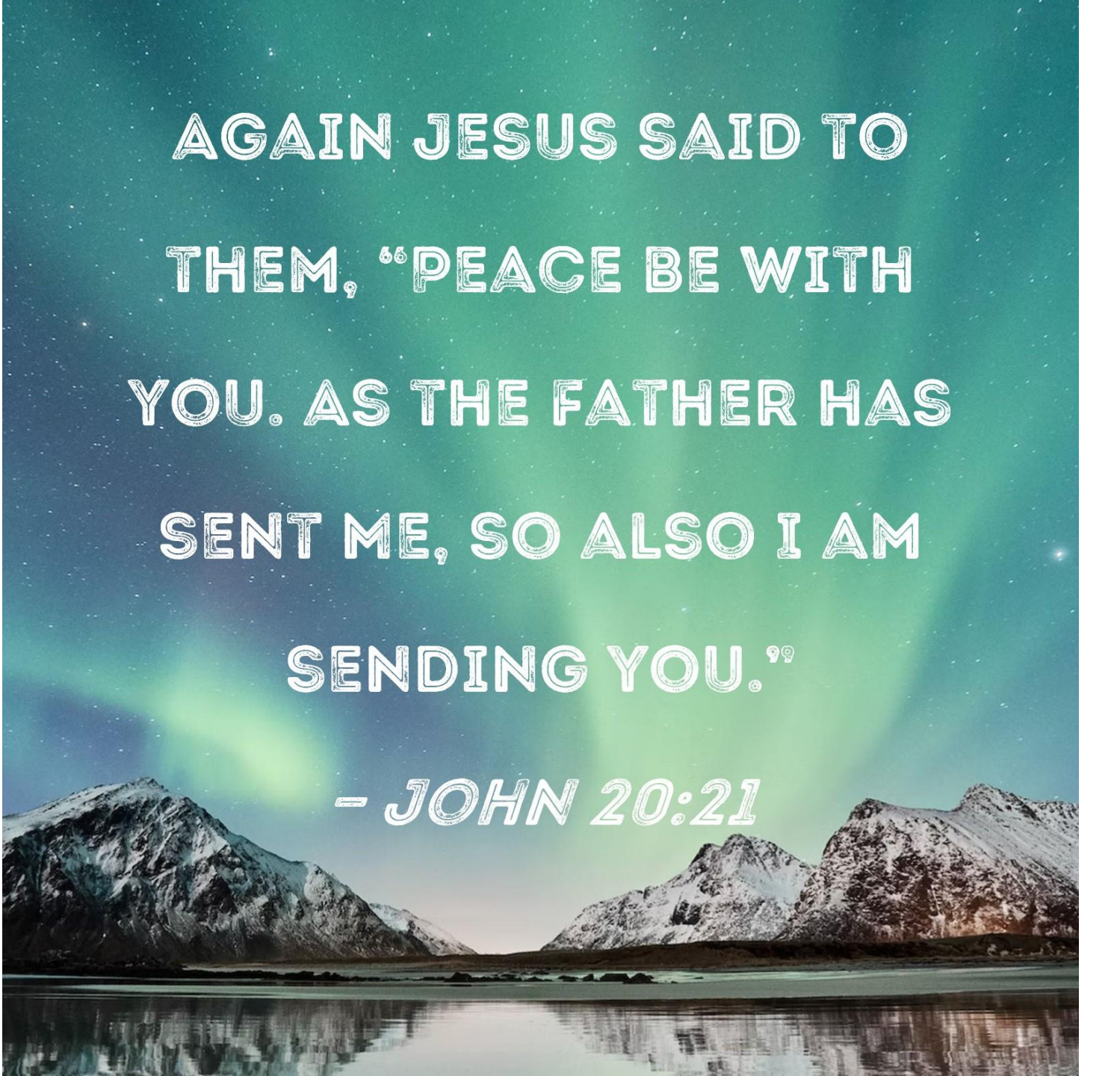
RECOVERING OUR CREATIVE CALLING

"One of the few books taking the discussion about Christianity and culture to a new level. . . I highly recommend it."
—TIM KELLER



**BUT SEEK THE WELFARE OF
THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT
YOU INTO EXILE, AND PRAY TO
THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF, FOR
IN ITS WELFARE YOU WILL
FIND YOUR WELFARE.**

Jeremiah 29:7



**AGAIN JESUS SAID TO
THEM, "PEACE BE WITH
YOU. AS THE FATHER HAS
SENT ME, SO ALSO I AM
SENDING YOU."**

- JOHN 20:21