

## Seven Keys to Changing the Culture

- 1. Redefine the issues to show there is reason for hope and not despair.
  - "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." *Romans* 5:2-5
- 2. Engage the media and frame the issues with Truth (Truth is self-authenticating)
  - "... we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." 2 Corinthians 4:1-2
  - "... Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32
- 3. Utilize relevant research data in development of policies and programs.
  - "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Luke 14:28-30
- 4. Develop programs and policies consistent with scripture.
  - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - "For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." *Proverbs 2:6*
- 5. Train leaders to understand the causes and effects of discrimination and equip them with the tools necessary to be effective in the work of reconciliation.



- "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

  Hebrews 13:20-21
- 6. Be relationship focused. No lives will ever be impacted if we do not care about people and their circumstances.
  - "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."

    \*Romans 12:16\*
  - "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." *Romans 12;3*
- 7. Get Involved NOW. Reconciliation is personal and happens at the individual level. Both you and I need to be willing to enter into one another's lives, NOW!
  - "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12;4-5
  - "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." *Romans* 12:9-15