



# Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling

*Andy Crouch*

Download now

Read Online 

# Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling

*Andy Crouch*

**Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling** Andy Crouch

2009 *Christianity Today* Book Award winner!

Named one of *Publishers Weekly's* best books of 2008 (religion category)

It is not enough to condemn culture. Nor is it sufficient merely to critique culture or to copy culture. Most of the time, we just consume culture. But the only way to change culture is to create culture.

Andy Crouch unleashes a stirring manifesto calling Christians to be culture makers. For too long, Christians have had an insufficient view of culture and have waged misguided "culture wars." But we must reclaim the cultural mandate to be the creative cultivators that God designed us to be. Culture is what we make of the world, both in creating cultural artifacts as well as in making sense of the world around us. By making chairs and omelets, languages and laws, we participate in the good work of culture making.

Crouch unpacks the complexities of how culture works and gives us tools for cultivating and creating culture. He navigates the dynamics of cultural change and probes the role and efficacy of our various cultural gestures and postures. Keen biblical exposition demonstrates that creating culture is central to the whole scriptural narrative, the ministry of Jesus and the call to the church. He guards against naive assumptions about "changing the world," but points us to hopeful examples from church history and contemporary society of how culture is made and shaped. Ultimately, our culture making is done in partnership with God's own making and transforming of culture.

A model of his premise, this landmark book is sure to be a rallying cry for a new generation of culturally creative Christians. Discover your calling and join the culture makers.

## Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling Details

Date : Published (first published 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Andy Crouch

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Cultural, Nonfiction, Religion, Theology, Christian, Christianity, Faith

 [Download Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling Andy Crouch**

---

# From Reader Review Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling for online ebook

## Kate Padilla says

Upon the cover alone, this book had two things going against it: 1) the class I had to read it for was not proving itself reliable to quality literature, and 2) It was a Christian look at our role within the broader, "mainstream" world.

Disclaimer: I am a Christian. I just don't like the way Christians portray themselves in our literature with it comes to our role in not-necessarily-"Christian"-culture.

Andy Crouch approaches such a touchy subject with grace and respect but establishes his point so as to say, "I respect you, and I deserve your respect."

And deserve our respect he does. I have not yet read such a firm, realistic understanding of anyone's--be them "Christian" or not--role in the society. We don't all come from trust funds and fame. Some of us start from the ground up, driven only by our unquenchable desire to change the world like it's never been changed before. Past literature on the subject says one of two things: "It's not your job, as an evangelical Christian, to change the world because the world cannot be changed and there's no use trying," or "You can do it. Follow steps 1, 2, and 3 and fasten your seatbelt. It happened to me, it can happen to you, too!" Crouch takes a step back, sighs, shakes his head a bit and says, "You can't change the world. You are one person. But, don't lose heart. Keep trying. Changing the world isn't as grand as it seems. You want to change the world? Change your family. Change a few friends. Start small, and don't stop."

Crouch writes in such a style so as not to apply specific to the Christian community. Do not be fooled--that is his intended audience. But, unlike a lot of stereotypical Christian-literature, he doesn't hype up the "Godyness." He does not flower Christianity with scented roses and hyperbolic language, and he doesn't promise every dream to come true upon "trusting in Him." He has a definite center, but he is deeper than that.

And, to the audience for which he intended, he has a different message than they might be expecting. As to our role as Christians in the world (and not of the world, as we're told in Sunday School), he states his thesis very matter-of-factly. "We are created in the image of God. And since God is the Creator, so are we creators." It's as simple as that. We are made to take part in the world because we were made to create within the world, and to add our artistic voice to the grand mural growing each and every day.

Anyone, "Christian" or not, "creator" or not, would better himself (or herself) by reading this book.

---

## Nick Gibson says

Crouch studies at the feet of secular sociology, knocks together a theory of 'culture', then trundles it over to Scripture and sets about manhandling the text in search of discovering what he's just invented. The exegesis is bad, and it doesn't help that he's also a theistic evolutionist and a crypto-Gramscian (with his talk of praxis, unironic use of 'bourgeois', and redefinition of poverty as a power relationship.)

Along the way - filled with many illustrative asides that I guess are typical of the Christian Living genre - we get some lame theories on art criticism, maybe-kinda-heretical views on the resurrection and the deity of Jesus, praise for N.T. Wright, laughable naïveté about the end of apartheid, gushing over Princess Diana (as if she wasn't a missionary of the UK sexual revolution?!), an esoteric reading of Revelation in search of metaphors for 'cultural goods', praise for Richard Niebuhr, and rejection of substitutionary atonement in favor of a metaphor about Christ taking the weight of failed culture.

Crouch comes from a mainline Protestant background and clearly belongs there, despite his Evangelical party card. Machen's warning in *Christianity & Liberalism* is as relevant as ever. It blows my mind that this got a Keller endorsement. Then again, Keller endorsed a Adele Ahlberg Calhoun book as well.

Worth it for the part about how rocking chairs and a wine bar at Charlotte Douglas Airport enable the reception of the gospel. (Yes, seriously.)

---

### **Katie says**

I'm not sure how to review this book. Like most books I read, I felt like a lot of it could've been easily edited out. I am a woman who LOVES the definition of terms and concepts before diving into them but boy howdy I got REAL TIRED of the omelette example. I don't know if I can ever hear the word and not get a feeling of dread that an impending cultural explanation is coming. BUT, there are some real gems in here. For anyone who creates (spoilers that's all of us let's be real), this may give you a profoundly new perspective, or at least a jumping off point for inner reflection. While I think(? I couldn't tell when he was sharing his opinion or providing a "neutral" view) I disagree with a fair amount of what he thinks about scripture, I have to admit that I found a lot of his interpretations of it through a cultural creation lens very moving. All in all, worth a read (or at least a skim if one is good at that).

---

### **Andrew Johnson says**

A very thought provoking book that will require a reread. There is so much to unpack that it's hard to nail down what I learned. It does help me think about my own vocation.

---

### **David Shane says**

This is a book about culture - about what culture is, God's role in culture, and what our actions as Christians should be, in roughly that order. I found it to be a helpful book in understanding what culture is and how to affect it, a thought-provoking book when it examined scripture through the lens of culture, and an encouraging book when discussing how we personally can and should act.

The author begins by removing from us the common idea that we can even talk about "the culture" in a simple monolithic way, or that it would be helpful to do so if we could. Rather, he says, a culture is its pieces, is its cultural goods - the roadways, the foods, the institutions, and more. Broadly speaking, a cultural good is something that changes the boundaries of the possible and the impossible - the telephone makes it possible for you to speak to your family when far from them, and may also make it impossible (in some jobs) to ever be really off-work. If we want to have an effect on culture, we should drop this vague talk about

"changing the culture" - we need to interact with it specifically, with these cultural goods.

But how should we interact with culture? There are actually many responses we can have to culture - we can condemn culture, critique culture, copy culture, consume culture, or cultivate and create culture. Cultivation and creation go together because no cultural good exists in a vacuum - it always builds in some way on what has come before it. At times, any one of these might be the proper response to some cultural good, but creation is particularly important because culture only changes as new cultural goods displace old ones.

After discussing culture in general, Crouch turns to the Bible, and walks us from Genesis to Revelation and presents the Biblical story as a story about culture. This is the part of the book I enjoyed the most. Starting in Genesis, we are told that man is made in the image of God, an image that surely at least includes God's creative aspect. In Genesis 2, we find Adam in a garden - a garden is not just nature, but already nature + culture. Culture too is one of God's gifts to man. We also see God making room for man's own creativity - instead of simply telling Adam the name of every creature He makes it Adam's choice.

The cultural story continues through scripture. Later, God chooses the nation of Israel, creates for them a unique culture through the Levitical laws and a unique cultural vocation - living in total dependence on Him. Then, He sets them in the well-trafficked Jordan valley, making sure that Israel's unique cultural vocation would be lived out in full view of the surrounding nations. Later still, in Jesus we meet the single greatest culture-affecter of all time, and it is worth noting that many of the personal changes Jesus encourages are to be accomplished by cultural changes - prayer is to be in quiet rooms instead of on the street, for example. Finally, at the end of the story, in Revelation, the new Jerusalem is revealed - not a garden as in Genesis, but a city, that place where cultures have their fullest expression. And, Crouch argues, many of the cultural goods we are so familiar with today will still be there, in redeemed form, and it is worth asking ourselves if the goods we create today will have a chance at making it into the New Jerusalem.

The middle section of the book, it should be said, will also be the most controversial, especially for readers with a more conservative view of scripture. Crouch states quite plainly, for example, that he views Genesis 1-11 as "less a finely documented history than a story that invites our trust." He does, certainly, trust these chapters enough to draw many lessons from them. And he later emphasizes the importance of the fact that "the Christian faith is a historical faith."

The final third of the book discusses how we are to go about in our calling to culture, and begins with a shot of humility - the first chapter is titled "Why We Can't Change the World." To change the world in this context means to create or modify some cultural good in a way that affects the horizons of possibility and impossibility for everyone - a difficult feat. Furthermore, Crouch says, there are no "sufficient conditions" for a world-changing cultural good - in other words, you simply cannot know ahead of time if your creation will have the effect and reach you desire.

We can, however, certainly have a more local effect on culture, and for that we need three things - power, community, and grace. Power is the ability to propose a new cultural good - but power also comes with risks, and is alluring and corrupting. So how should we act as Christians? Crouch has several suggestions, but perhaps they can be summarized in saying that we should choose to use power in ways that rob it of its temptation - specifically, by exercising service and stewardship.

But, even with power, culture is also rarely created alone. Instead, we need a community, and this community tends to take the form of concentric circles of people - Crouch calls them the 3, the 12, and the 120. He gives the example of a corporation, in which the ~3 might be the CEO, COO, CIO, and CFO, the 12 would be the board of directors, and the 120 would be the rest of the key staff. This numerical pattern has

Biblical parallels as well - the Synoptic gospels stress the roles of Peter, James, and John around Jesus. Beyond them there are the remaining 12 disciples, and there are indications of a larger group as well - Jesus sends out 70 disciples to declare the coming of the kingdom in Luke 10, for example.

Finally, we need grace. God is at work in human culture, so supernaturally abundant results are possible every time we create a new cultural good. To find your personal calling in culture, Crouch suggests you ask yourself a question - "Where do you experience grace - divine multiplication that far exceeds your efforts."

---

## **John says**

You ever get on a roll where every book you pick up or movie you watch is great? That's where I've been in 2010. Keep it coming!

"Culture Making" was a book I wanted to read but was afraid to read. I suppose I've been a little worn down in recent years by evangelicals' obsession with all things culture. Andy Crouch stands well above the fray, though.

What was perhaps most surprising about "Culture Making" to me was the scope of Crouch's vision. Crouch takes on the whole thing in his book: from what is culture? to what would it mean for Christians to influence culture? to what does the Bible have to say about culture? to how we can make culture that will have a lasting and gospel-centered impact?

Each of these Crouch handles masterfully. Crouch's definition of culture -- the broadest possible definition ("culture is what we make of the world")-- sets up his thesis: God has called Christians to create meaningful culture. And with this in hand he sets about the task of reflecting on the redemptive history. Crouch isn't pretending to rewrite the redemptive story here, but his telling of it is compelling and inspiring.

Finally, Crouch gets to the nuts and bolts of his operation: what are the obstacles in culture making and how should one go about the enterprise. His reflections are God-centered and practical throughout.

Perhaps what delighted me most about the book was Crouch's ability to explain and then pass by what has subconsciously rankled me about evangelical 'culture talk' for years: talking about and analyzing culture does not equate to making culture. In fact, Crouch holds off on Niebuhr's worn out "Christ and Culture" typologies until nearly two-thirds of the book has passed. Everybody wants to transform the culture... Crouch actually begins talking about how and why we might do that.

There's really nothing negative to say about Crouch's book. In addition to being a very helpful book, it's readable and littered with wonderful turns of phrases and word pictures. The only minor critique I might have is really no critique at all... but rather a caution... Crouch is a very certain type of evangelical: a Northeasterner with a background that ranges from the evangelical and into the mainline. For many, I'm sure, there will be times where his own cultural language or theology is at a disconnect with their own. Be assured, though, that Crouch is a good guide who will serve you well, even if you don't agree with every point along the way.

---

## Mark Jr. says

I went to a liberal arts school.

Why did I bother?

Why did I bother learning the history of art or music? Why not just learn what it takes to make money *now*?

Andy Crouch answers with a book-length "because God said so." That's what you'll find in *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. This is an expansive book that travels through sociology, through the whole storyline of Scripture, and into practical suggestions.

But it's not what you might expect coming from a centrist evangelical like Crouch (he's worked for InterVarsity and Christianity Today and sits on the boards of Fuller Seminary and *Books & Culture*). This book is not a rah-rah for Christians "engaging the culture." It's certainly not a piece of theological sophistry designed to permit Christians to watch Rated-R movies (Crouch only recently got his family a television). Crouch is not even very sanguine about the likelihood that any given Christian will change the world for the *better*. He's actually afraid that Christians are more likely to be changed *by* the world than to change it—and he's afraid that many evangelicals are being changed by the world for the worse.

And yet the Bible starts with a clear call for all God's image bearers to subdue the earth and have dominion over it—to "make something of the world," as Crouch helpfully summarizes it. There are humble, God-focused ways of obeying this command, a command the Bible never abrogates. And, Crouch says, we must by God's grace try. Culture forms the horizons of possibility and impossibility for every human being on earth; we should therefore, starting with our own families, take culture making seriously.

### Summary

The heart of the book comes in a taxonomy of ways you can approach any given cultural artifact, from highways to ham radios. Crouch distinguishes between "gestures and postures": you can't keep the same posture toward all offerings of culture, he says. You can't condemn everything or consume everything. Crouch suggests instead that we should view his characteristic responses to culture as gestures, something you do depending on the occasion. He starts by describing four such gestures:

- Condemning culture
- Critiquing culture
- Copying culture
- Consuming culture

One or another Christian group has made each of these a consistent posture, Crouch says, and that concerns him. Some Christians (guess who?) characteristically *condemn* culture and withdraw from it (Crouch's critique here has more nuance than I can provide in a single-sentence summary; it's well worth your reading). Heady evangelicals—Francis Schaeffer is Crouch's patron saint example—*critique* it. The Jesus Movement and CCM *copy* culture. And most modern evangelicals simply *consume* it. Crouch says, however, that none of these gestures should become postures. Some cultural goods should be flatly condemned, others carefully critiqued, others copied, many just consumed. It was here that I read an extremely powerful quotation I've thought of often:

Most evangelicals today no longer forbid going to the movies, nor do we engage in earnest

Francis Schaeffer-style critiques of the films we see—we simply go to the movies and, in the immortal word of Keanu Reeves, say, "Whoa." We walk out of the movie theater amused, titillated, distracted or thrilled, just like our fellow consumers who do not share our faith. If anything, when I am among evangelical Christians I find that they seem to be more avidly consuming the latest offerings of commercial culture, whether *Pirates of the Caribbean* or *The Simpsons* or *The Sopranos*, than many of my non-Christian neighbors. They are content to be just like their fellow Americans, or perhaps, driven by a lingering sense of shame at their uncool forebears, just slightly more like their fellow Americans than anyone else. (p. 89)

Picking up the argument again: we can't stop with these four gestures, and here Crouch gets to his major contribution by adding two more C's. Christians should have the ongoing *postures* of...

- Creating culture
- Cultivating culture

We should care for, preserve, and develop what is good in the cultural traditions we've received (p. 97). (Read this *Times* article, for example, to see how careful cultivation of the Western piano tradition has pushed human creation and achievement higher; or watch this fascinating documentary to see how typography advanced with the creation of Helvetica.) Within the space created for us by previous generations, we should add to those traditions by creating new cultural goods. This, Crouch will argue, is something God designed us to do from the beginning.

Crouch spends part two of his book telling the story of God's world from that beginning to its intended end, and you may be surprised to find what the Bible says about the culture(s) of eternity. Part three provides practical warnings (a great deal of them) and suggestions for working with God to carry out the culture-making commands of Scripture.

### **Evaluation**

I have a few complaints about Crouch's work: he wastes three pages needlessly dismissing a straightforward reading of Genesis 1–2 (which he elsewhere relies upon—strange), he assumes that Mother Teresa was a regenerated person, and he makes a few minor overstatements. But if you are smart enough to get through this book, you'll be smart enough to spot those errors—errors which I do not think affect the substance of the argument.

This is not a book full of vague platitudes about "engaging the culture" or "redeeming" it. It's a careful scriptural study. And Crouch is not a theonomist; he doesn't ever recommend the violent takeover of public institutions. His ambitions seem a good bit more realistic. Someone who is premill and pretrib (like this reviewer) need have no problem with his eschatology.

If you take your liberal arts education seriously, read this book.

---

### **Rachel says**

This book was so vague and ambiguous, that I had to force myself to keep plodding through it to try to figure out what this guy's worldview was. I am extremely disappointed with it, and his "the Bible's authors [speaking specifically of the Genesis account of creation] didn't intend for the details to be historical", going



on to advocate the "scientific theory of the big bang" was just the cherry on top. Ugh. I am fed up with weak Christianity...

---

### **Mathew says**

Andy Crouch wants Christians to think rightly about culture. And not only how we think about it, but also how it fits within the framework of what God has accomplished in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He says that he had "a hunch that the language of 'engaging the culture,' let alone the 'culture wars,' fell far short. . . . I also sensed that most churches were neglecting the centrality of culture to the bible story and the gospel itself" (p. 5) and "Indeed, the good news is the world is already changed, in a specific and astonishing way. God's ways are not our ways. . . . The good news about culture is that culture is finally not about us, but about God" (p. 7).

That gospel rootedness reorients the entire discussion ongoing in the church. Culture making is less about what we do or accomplish, rather it's about what God has already done and is doing in the world. Culture Making starts in Part 1 by defining and exploring what culture is ("Culture is, first of all, the name or our relentless, restless human effort to take the world as it's given to us and make something else" [p. 23 also see p. 36 "culture is what we were made to do"]).

[Read the entire review here](#)

[Buy Crouch's Culture Making here](#)

---

### **C.A. Gray says**

#### **Totally original!**

I didn't think this book was likely to say anything I hadn't already heard. But I was very pleasantly surprised. More than once I had to stop and journal about some of the revelations it contains. Very thought-provoking and profound!

---

### **Kristen says**

Thought-provoking and deep, I'd recommend this widely. The principles are solid and can be applied broadly, even if it isn't all that practical or specific. (9/10)

---

### **Laura says**

Andy Crouch is a truly original thinker, and that's why when he speaks, I consider it an honor to get to listen.

That said, there are many reasons to read this important book, and I would guess many people will find their own reasons to value Crouch's gentle and persuasive plan for how Christians can become culture makers.

The reason I treasure this book was because it took the stratospheric sounding idea of "making culture" and helped bring it back to the ground where I spend most of my life.

Crouch does this first by carefully and thoughtfully defining the word culture as "what we make of the world." This simple definition both elevates my everyday actions into forms of culture making, and deflates any of my ambitions which tell me I must make a name for myself before I can truly influence the culture.

I'm only casually familiar with H. Richard Niebuhr whose "typology has framed nearly every conversation about culture among theologically minded Christians" for many decades; however, I have heard of Niebuhr's main terms: Christ against culture, Christ of culture, Christ and culture in paradox, Christ above culture, and Christ transforming culture. Crouch pushes the conversation forward by distinguishing between a *posture* towards culture (what Niebuhr seems to have been discussing) and a *gesture*. Crouch argues that it's really no use talking about culture as a whole. Instead, we need to think of culture as a collection of smaller artifacts. This distinction frees us to be more flexible in responding to and interacting with the culture. We need not always maintain a single posture, as suggested by Niebuhr's typology. Instead, when look at culture on a smaller scale we can use Niebuhr's terms as a variety of gestures, and we can choose among them to decide what is the appropriate response to a particular cultural artifact.

Crouch also recognizes that the most powerful form of culture is the family. I know already that it is likely a fool's dream to be influential over many people, but Crouch explains why: culture is usually pretty optional. People can accept your cultural proposal or simply ignore it. But that isn't so at the family level. As a mother, I have an exceptional amount of influence over the culture of my family. Crouch's emphasis on making culture at the local level is an important antidote to the celebrity Christian culture that, even for me, has started to seem like the only way to be a culture-maker.

The real gift of this book for me was in how he taught me to see the world as full of opportunities for moving the horizon of the possible. Crouch stirred my imagination and summoned my courage to make culture right where I am. And that's an awfully nice way to feel after you finish reading a book.

---

### **John Elliott says**

I greatly appreciated Crouch's nuanced, wholistic, Biblically-rooted approach to the work of culture-making. Particularly helpful were the chapters about our "postures" toward various elements of culture and his unpacking of Jesus as the greatest culture maker of all. I finished the book feeling both sobered and inspired, a mix that feels right to me given the nature of the subject. Would highly recommend to any Christian who seeks to understand his/her work in the broader context of God's redemptive purposes.

---

### **Kevan says**

When I chose this book to read, I was hoping for a massive kick-in-the-pants to 'get out and make.' I was hoping that it would be a rallying cry for Christians (and all people) to be more creative and enterprising. The book delivered, but it did more: it gave some cautionary advice that I had actually never thought about, and made it worth sticking around to the end of the book to discover, despite the occasional reading obstacles. I'll explain.

First, the parts that got me riled up (in a good way) to go and make awesome things:

"The only way to change culture is to make more of it," Crouch writes, and I love that. So many of us merely criticize culture, or consume culture, but it's the creators who wield the power to change it. Go and make! It's our calling, one and all, to create and to cultivate.

Some more quotes:

"When it comes to cultural creativity, innocence is not a virtue. The more each of us knows about our cultural domain, the more likely we are to create something new and worthwhile."

"Any cultural good, after all, only moves the horizon for the particular public who experience it. For the rest of the world, it is as if that piece of culture, no matter how excellent or significant it might be, never existed." (In other words, be content knowing that the audience you reach may be the only audience that will matter for you)

There was another great moment where Crouch explains that some of the most influential, world-changing culture is not witnessed by its creators, because the change is long-building, slow-burning and eventual. In fact, while many of us want to make an instant splash with what we create, and that's often the sure sign of something that WON'T change culture in the long run. Go for making the goods that have a gradual, movement building strength.

As we went along, Crouch reminded us that sometimes the culture we make, makes other culture no longer possible. For instance, the infrastructure of the highway system made it quick to travel in a car, but has made horse travel over long distances nearly impossible. So even though we often herald new culture as utterly winsome, be aware of what it makes impossible.

Near the end is where the surprising cautions came in:

- We can't change the world. We won't. (You'll have to read why for yourself.)
- Creating cultural goods give you a form of power. Be cautious, be wise, be humble about the temptation to accrue power as a culture-maker. It's big, and rarely discussed.

--A note on how to read his book--

In the introduction, Crouch writes "I hope families will read this together," so I decided to give it a go, and began reading the first chapter to my wife. I was soon being begged to please stop, and to never read this book to her again. If you like books that nitpick over semantics, you'll love the first chapter of this book, where he spends the whole time over-defining the word culture, and overusing the word "omelets" as his cute, everyman analogy for culture-making. He could have just said: "A good synonym for culture would be 'civilization' - anything humans create, from small to big." Chapter one done.

So stopped reading it aloud and moved to chapter 2, silent reading. I quickly discovered the book wasn't exactly meant for that either. It's too studied and careful to be read casually.

Chapter 3. I wasn't going to give up yet. The material seemed too important. To get the most of the book, I realized I needed to change my outlook entirely: I brought a pen with me. I would read it at tables. I would study it like a textbook, thinking about passages. THAT'S how the book is meant to be read.

Armed with the right process, I carried on.

Because of the book's wisdom, I give it 4 stars, but if it was just on the writing style and structure, I would

have to give it 2 stars; it's a labour for sure.

---

## **Curby Graham says**

One of the finest books I have read on the topic of culture and the Christian responsibility to be "culture-makers". Crouch points out that most Christians in the US tend to ignore the first two chapters and the last two chapters of the Bible. Humans were originally placed in the world to be culture makers and to cultivate the raw materials God created the world with. He points out that when God created Adam and Eve He then called His work "very good". To illustrate this principle Crouch mentions how wheat is good. But when a culture-maker takes it, grinds it into flour, adds yeast and salt and water and bakes it to become bread - what you now have is "very good". Likewise with grapes that are good - they can be harvested, crushed, fermented and turned into wine which is also "very good".

Ultimately human culture in some fashion will be redeemed and brought forward into the Kingdom itself. Revelation 21 has this rather startling claim:

"24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. "

The glory and honor of the nations will be part of the New Heavens and New Earth. We are not going back to a primitive state of Eden. Rather humanity's ultimate end will be in a City - a place of culture.

Now I have to point out that the only reason I did not give this book 5 stars is because the writer talks about making a chili and using bulgar wheat instead of meat. As a Texas I can only say: That.Is.Not.Right.

Otherwise apart from that minor flaw I highly recommend this book to every Christian.

---