

# MOTIVES OF THE HEART

Sabbath School Bible Studies

Five Questions for Life Change

Study Text: Romans 12:1-3

Escape from the World's Ways

## Open

1. Take a brief look at the online 'Time Out' - London Magazine, or a secular arts and culture magazine in your own country.

<https://www.timeout.com/london>

Invite group members to take a quick look at the Film, Theatre, Art, and Music sections (the tabs are found at the top of the homepage). Share what events are of interest to you. As a Christian, what do you feel comfortable viewing or listening to? Give an example of what you'd avoid and why.

There are three responses of the Christian, in relation to popular culture:

- a. Culture Affirming (acceptance of everything).
- b. Culture Rejecting (rejection of everything.)
- c. Culture Discerning (keep some, reject some).

Examine the strengths and weaknesses of each.

## Dig

2. *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."* (Romans 8:6). What does this text mean in the overall context of Romans?
3. *"For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."* (Romans 8:7). What connection does this and the previous text have with the life, death, and resurrection of Christ? (Galatians 2:19-20).
4. Read Romans 12:1-3 together line by line. How do you understand:

"by the mercies of God"?

"present your bodies as living sacrifices"?

"spiritual worship"?

"Do not be conformed to this world"?

"be transformed"?

"testing & discern"?

"the will of God"?

## Reflect

5. Consider your own relationship with popular culture, as a Christian. Consistent or inconsistent? Healthy or unhealthy? What connection with popular culture do you find it easier to compromise on? What areas do you find it easier to reject and stay clear of?

Pray together for the discerning Spirit.