



Popcultured: Thinking Christianly About Style, Media and Entertainment

By Steve Turner

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There's no avoiding popular culture?we've been enculturated into it. What does it mean to be faithful Christians in a pop culture world? How do we think Christianly about celebrity and leisure? Some Christians try to abstain from "worldly" pursuits, while others consume culture indiscriminately, assuming it has little effect on them. But if Christ is Lord of all of life, then there ought to be Christian ways to engage with and appreciate popular culture. Steve Turner has spent his career chronicling and interviewing people from the worlds of music, film, television, fashion, art and literature. Now he provides an insider's guide to a wide range of entertainment pursuits, with biblical frameworks for understanding pop culture genres and artifacts. Turner explores

- how movies use redemptive narratives and parables
- ways journalistic headlines convey worldview assumptions
- differences between famous people in the past and celebrities today
- what ideas are communicated through clothing and fashion design
- how technology changes our sense of what is real
- and much more

God entrusts culture to us and gives us the ability to critique it, enjoy it and create it. This book will help you become a better cultural critic, consumer and creator.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Turner offers not only the tools for critical engagement of popular culture, but also an earnest exploration of what it means to consciously and unconsciously participate and create as Christians in the world."
(Publishers Weekly, May 13, 2013)

"If both Paul and Jesus could use their cultures as springboards for the Gospel, why shouldn't we? And if we want to follow their examples, this volume by Turner offers a well-informed biblical and theological guide to how we might do it." (Rev. Dr. Bob Robinson, Latimer Fellowship, 2015)

"Many local churches give their members little assistance when it comes to assessing the products of popular culture from a Christian point of view. Those who require help in this area will find much useful material in Steve Turner's *Popcultured*." (Christian Librarian, Autumn 2013)

". . . this is a discussion all Christians desperately need to have." (Sue Grise, CBA Retailers + Resources, July 2013)

"Steve Turner is our generation's international treasure. *Popcultured* holds up an entertaining magnifying lens while revealing how the power of pop culture has come to insinuate itself into every aspect our daily lives. Steve reveals how our seemingly mindless surrender to today's trends causes us to breathe the air of whatever wind is blowing--be it in the way that we dress, our taste in music, political consciousness or even our spiritual beliefs. Whatever the fashion, or fleeting fad, we strive to stay apace without stopping to ask ourselves, 'Why?' This is where Steve Turner's *Popcultured* anchors us in understanding the trends, by providing abiding wisdom and insight so that we might learn to ask the right questions of our times."
(Bobette Buster, film and story guru, and adjunct professor, University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts, Peter Stark Program)

"Popular culture surrounds us. Film, television, music and new technologies all influence individuals and society. Learning how to engage pop culture thoughtfully and winsomely is part of our Christian calling. In *Popcultured*, Steve Turner offers cogent insights and practical wisdom that will help readers understand and evaluate popular culture, encouraging spiritual discernment and theological balance." (Robert Velarde, author of *The Wisdom of Pixar*)

"Steve Turner has proved himself one of the most accessible writers on the interaction of faith and culture. *Popcultured* is a welcome and lively exploration of what is fast becoming a crucial field." (Jeremy Begbie, Duke University, author of *Resounding Truth: Christian Wisdom in the World of Music*)

"I do not hesitate to recommend this book heartily. There are precious few good books on popular culture from a Christian perspective, and fewer still that are as ambitious and wide-ranging as this one. Turner provides a welcome addition to a seriously underdeveloped field, a field that requires more attention than it typically gets from Evangelicals. This book deserves a wide and enthusiastic readership." (Ted Turnau, *Foundations*, 66, May 2014)

About the Author

Steve Turner is an English music journalist, biographer and poet, who has spent his career chronicling and

interviewing people from the worlds of music, film, television, fashion, art, and literature. He regularly contributes to newspapers such as *The Mail on Sunday* and *The Times* and his many books include *Imagine: A Vision for Christians in the Arts*, *Popcultured: Thinking Christianly About Style, Media and Entertainment*, *Hungry for Heaven: Rock and Roll and the Search for Redemption*, *U2: Rattle and Hum*, *Van Morrison: Too Late to Stop Now*, and *A Hard Day's Write: The Stories Behind Every Beatles Song*. Originally from Northamptonshire, England, Turner's career as a journalist began as features editor of *Beat Instrumental* where he interviewed many of the prominent rock musicians of the 1970s. His articles have appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *Mojo*, *Q*, and *the London Times*, and he has also written several poetry books for both adults and children. He lives in London with his wife and two children.

Users Review

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