We produce world-class scholarship and build networks of like-minded scholars. Ideas matter. They capture our imaginations, and humans are imagining creatures. But ideas do not float above the world like wisps of smoke. They inform the concrete stuff of our lives. And since we are social beings, they do their work by circulating between us. YCFC produces deep Christian reflection on God, Christ, and flourishing, and develops connections with scholars elsewhere doing similar work in order to maximize our combined positive impact in the academy.

What is the Yale Center for Faith & Culture?
The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to a way of life. It presents a vision of flourishing, of abundant life, and commissions us in service of that vision. This vision of flourishing is expansive. It claims our lives in every aspect. The gospel cannot be placed neatly in a container beside other values and interests. Discipleship is not one activity alongside others. No, the yeast of the kingdom of God leavens the whole of our lives.

In response to this comprehensive call, the Yale Center for Faith & Culture (YCFC) articulates and promotes practices of faith that advance authentic human flourishing. It does so in service of our churches, our cultures, our world, and our God.

How do we do this?
We work to revitalize seminary and undergraduate education. At its best, education is not the impartation of sterile information, but a process of vital formation. We teach divinity school students to let their faith shape their visions of flourishing, and we teach undergraduates how to wrestle with the most meaningful question of their lives—what makes a life worth living?

Ours is a faith that will not leave the world behind, will not rest content with merely private piety. In a world yearning for the flourishing life for which God made it, faith and the theology that seeks to understand it must be engaged with life in its full scope. That is the work of the Yale Center for Faith & Culture.

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Christ and Flourishing

Humans are made to flourish, to receive abundant life (John 10:10). The life of Jesus Christ is the lens that allows us to see the shape of truly flourishing life and the gift that invites us into such life. Through the Christ and Flourishing program, YCFC inspires Christians to reflect deeply on the significance of Christ’s life and to live in its light.

Our guiding questions are: What does it mean for Christ to be the key to human existence and flourishing? What does flourishing look like if Jesus Christ is taken to be the key? The Christ & Flourishing program explores these questions through scholarship, teaching, and public engagement. Scholarly books and articles by YCFC researchers contribute to reshaping theological scholarship around the question of flourishing life in relation to God and enriching our understanding of what flourishing life looks like today. Collaborative consultations gather scholars from a wide variety of fields and institutions to generate new ideas about topics vital to the task of envisioning flourishing life.

Revitalizing Education

• 126 Yale College students have taken our Life Worth Living course since 2014. The class has received 465 applications.
• Life Worth Living courses have been adapted and taught at universities and secondary schools in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom.
• Since 2015, roughly 10 percent of Yale Divinity School students have taken our Christ & Flourishing course.

Producing World-Class Scholarship

• YCFC Scholars have written or edited 12 books since 2010.
• From 2014 to Spring 2017, YCFC hosted 23 collaborative scholarly consultations, which produced 113 papers on topics ranging from Joy, Trust, and Suspicion to the future of theology. We plan for 10 more in 2017-2018.
• Since 2016, YCFC has awarded grants to 49 scholars in fields ranging from philosophy and systematic theology to Confucian studies and practical theology.

Engaging with & Resourcing Publics

• The Joy & Adolescent Faith & Flourishing Lunch and Lecture series convenes a community of roughly 75 local youth ministry leaders and provides tools and insights for their ministry.
• Educational videos from YCFC have received over 250,000 views since the beginning of 2016.
• YCFC Director Miroslav Volf regularly speaks to lay and specialist audiences around the world.

What does it mean for life... to be led well? to go well? to feel good?