

e-cwip

interactive apostolic ministry training

Class 205—How to Engage Culture without Marrying It

Session 2: *In the world, but not of the world* (Notes)

Text: John 15:18-16:4; 16:33; 17:11, 14-23

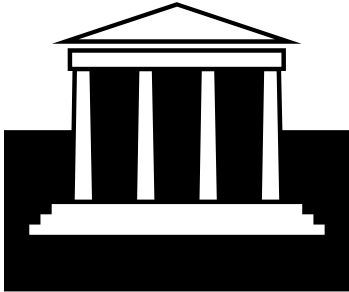
The “Enduring Problem:”

How do we as Christians approach culture?

Problem # 1: The Nature of Scripture:

Historical
Eternal
Relevance
Particularity

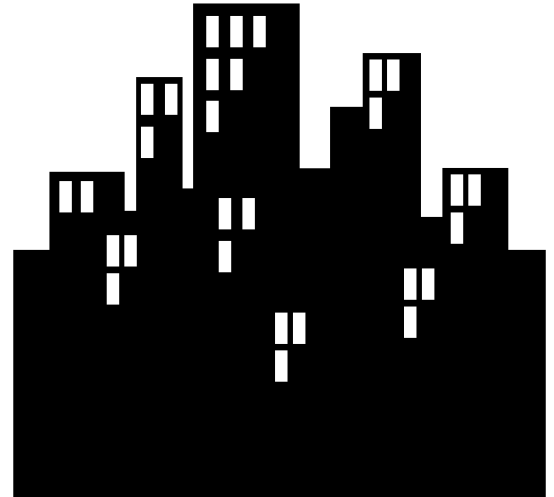
Problem # 2: The Culture Gap/Trap:



"Then & There"

The Task: What did it mean to them?

The Tool: Exegesis



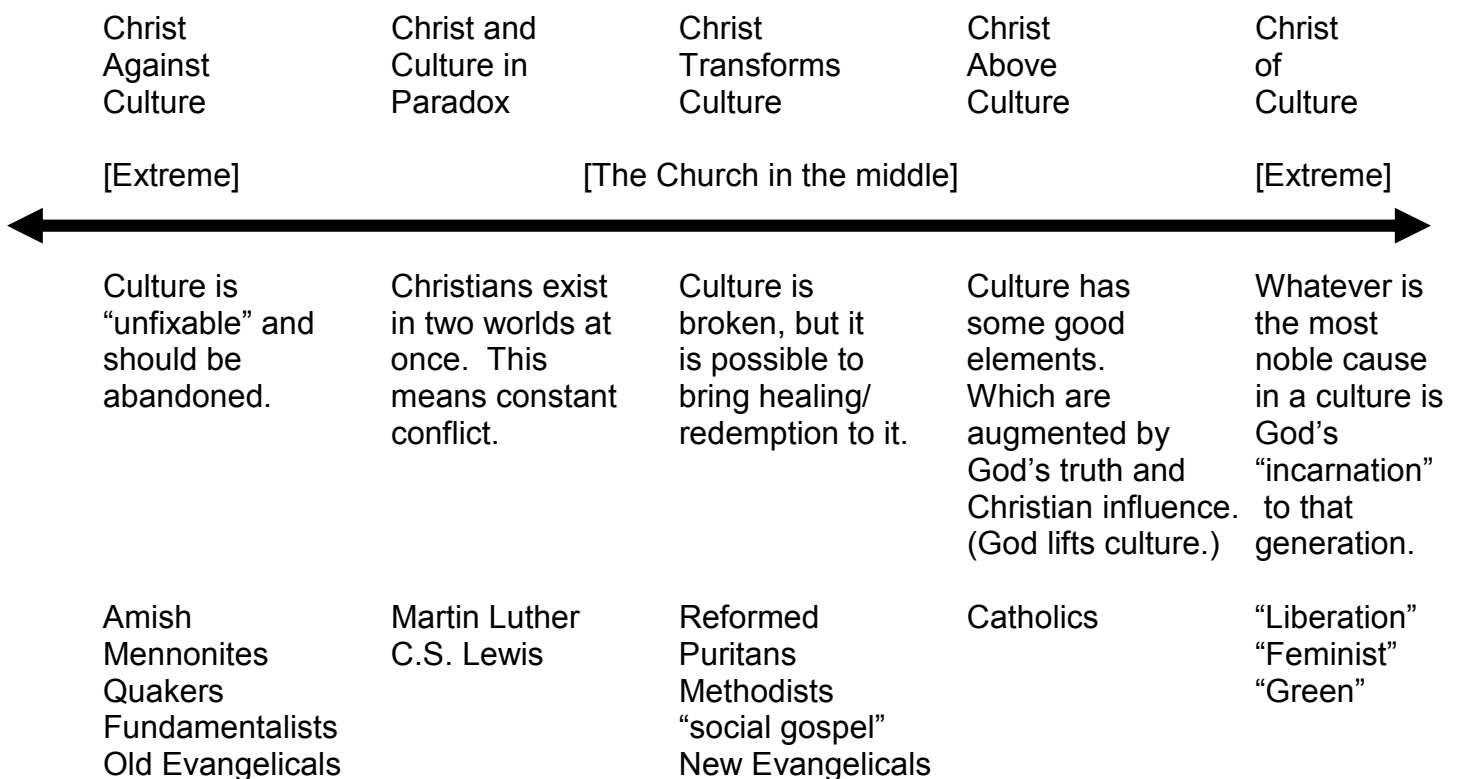
"Here & Now"

The Task: What does it have to do with me?

The Tool: Hermeneutics

H. Richard Niebuhr: Christ and Culture

5 Christian approaches to culture:



1. A mandate to transcend culture:

“Come out from among them and be ye separate.” 2 Cor. 6:17

- **In “source” of truth & inspiration**

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled.” John 15:27

- **In values & beliefs**

“I gave you the words you gave me and they accepted them.” John 17:8

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God . . .” 2 Cor 6:14-16

- **In behavior**

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your Word is truth.” John 17:15-17

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving . . . Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. Eph 5:3-7

“Even one of their own prophets has said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.’ This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply so that they will be sound in the faith..” Titus 1:12

- **In community**

“May they be one as we are one.” John 17:11

“May they be brought into complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them, even as you have loved me. John 17:23

“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

“No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another God, God dwells in us and his love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:12

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Mat 5:16

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves [the offering for the poor in Jerusalem], men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.” 2 Cor 9:13

2. A mandate to accommodate [engage] culture:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:14

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” John 17:18-19

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Mat 28:19

3. A mandate to heal culture:

“The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” Rev. 22:2

“Ye are the light of the world, ye are the salt of the earth.”