

How Should Christians Understand and Respond to Culture?

Christians have responded to culture in a variety of ways over the centuries. How can we understand the different approaches? Through several easily understood diagrams this workshop will review the major ways in which Christian thinkers have proposed responding to culture. We will then consider additional models for a more holistic and biblical way in which followers of Jesus can be salt and light in the cultures that we inhabit.

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I. Protestant Models

A. Anabaptist - Dualistic

B. Lutheran - Dialectical

C. Reformed - Holistic

II. A Biblical Model

A. People – Earth – God

B. Israel – Church – New Creation

III. A Christian Philosophical Model

A. Differentiation, Sphere Sovereignty, and Ground Motifs

B. Sphere Universality and the Idolization of Aspects of Reality

C. Unity by the State and Unity in the Heart

Suggested Readings:

Herman Dooyeweerd, *Roots of Western Culture* (Toronto, Canada: Wedge Publishing, 1979)

Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture* (New York: HarperCollins, 2001)

D. A. Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008)

Christopher Wright, *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009)

Christopher Wright, *Walking in the Ways of the Lord* (Leicester, UK: Apollos, 1995)