


PHILOSOPHY OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MODERN CULTURE

JUNE 25, 2017



¹³ THEREFORE, PREPARE YOUR MINDS FOR ACTION, KEEP SOBER IN SPIRIT, FIX YOUR HOPE COMPLETELY ON THE GRACE TO BE BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. ¹⁴ AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THE FORMER LUSTS WHICH WERE YOURS IN YOUR IGNORANCE, ¹⁵ BUT LIKE THE HOLY ONE WHO CALLED YOU, BE HOLY YOURSELVES ALSO IN ALL YOUR BEHAVIOR; ¹⁶ BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

1 PETER 1:13-16

PRINCIPLE FROM PK'S SERMON: CONSUME A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND NOT CULTURE

- The study of God is the most practical of all studies.
- God is Holy.
- Holiness is an attribute of the goodness of God!

³ BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HAS BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST,⁴ JUST AS HE CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE WOULD BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM. IN LOVE ⁵ HE PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION AS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE KIND INTENTION OF HIS WILL, ⁶ TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHICH HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN THE BELOVED.

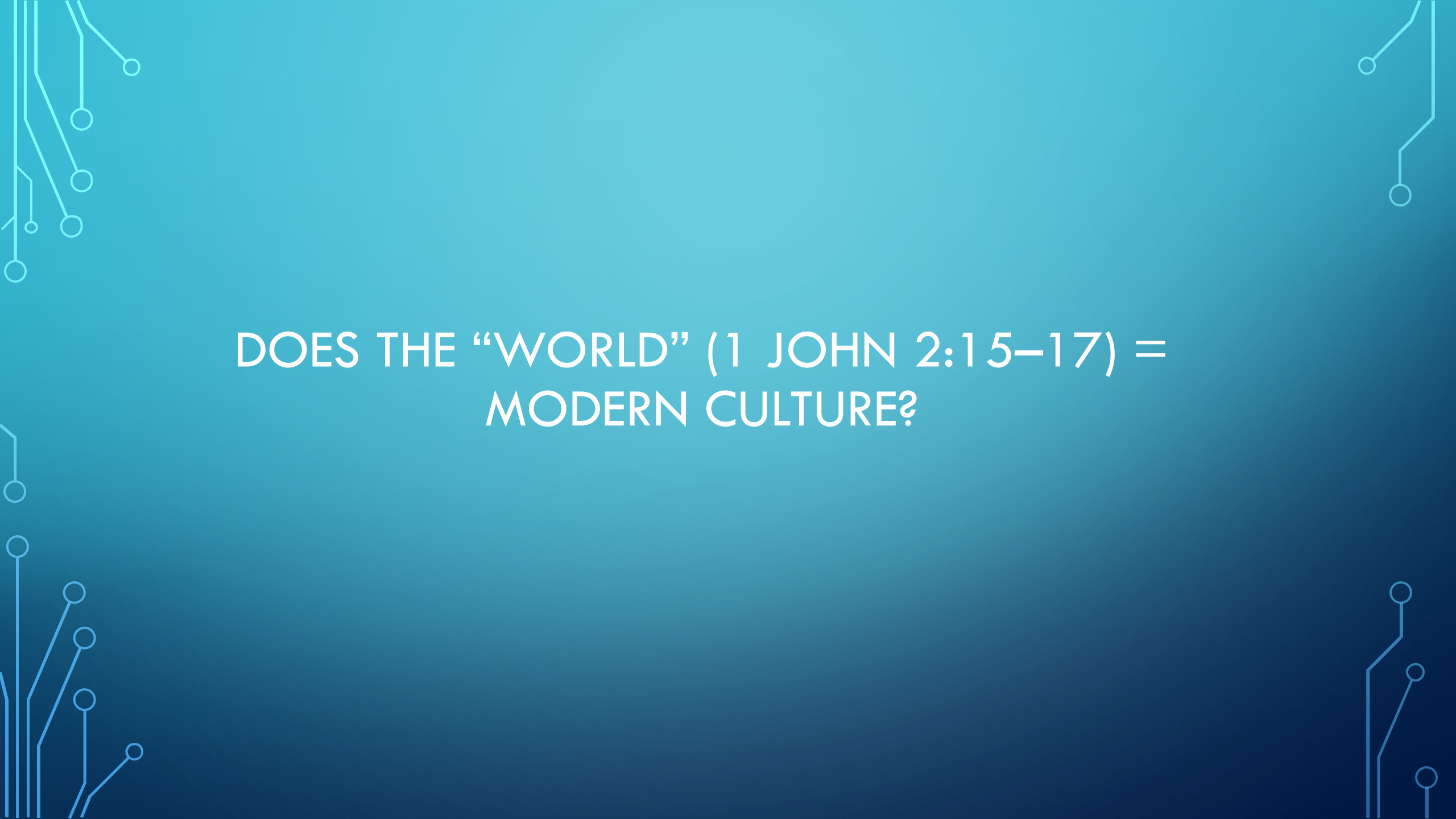
EPHESIANS 1:3–6

IMPLICATIONS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

- Remembering that God is the sole originator, instigator and provider of this relationship should strengthen our relationship with Him.
- We should be that much more thankful for the “arranged marriage” God has ordained. Remember that we are not settling for a relationship with God through Christ. We don’t love him simply because we are not supposed to love the world (as if He is the next best alternative, even when it seems like He’s not).

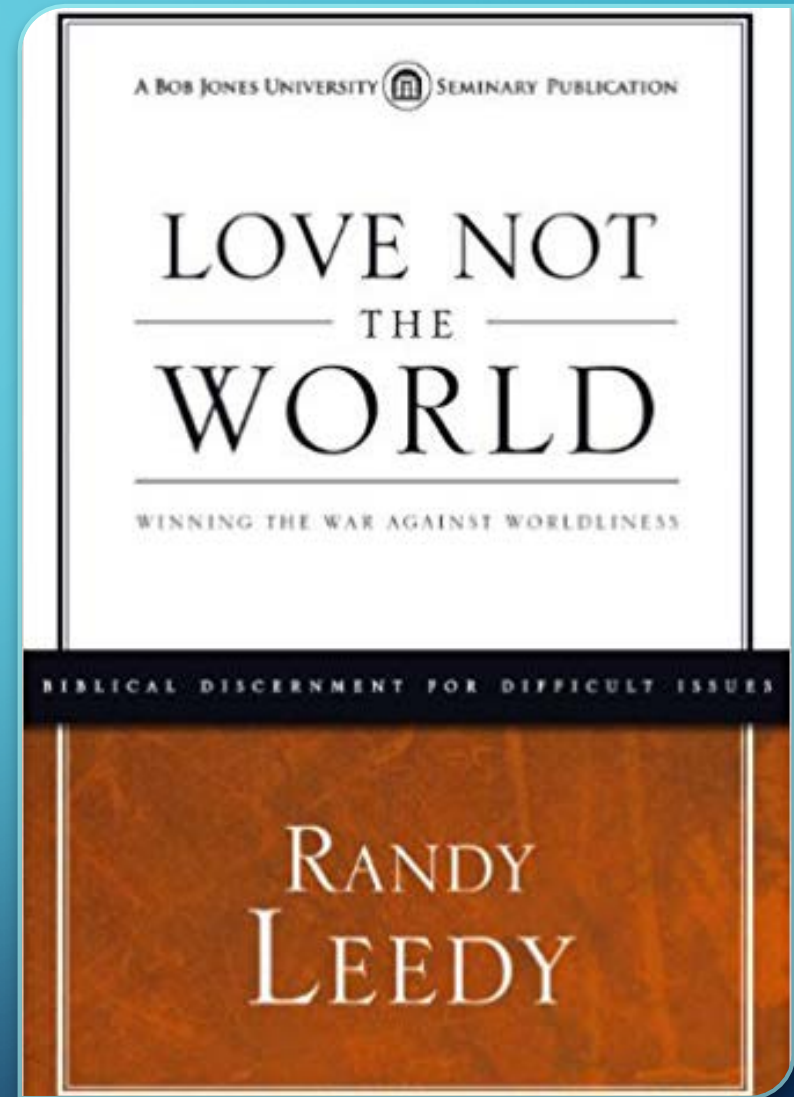
IMPLICATIONS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

- The primary problem facing Christians is not the allure of the world; instead, it is the forgetting and failing to appreciate who God is and what He has done for us. The world is not too strong; rather, the Christian's love for God is too weak. The more intimate we are with Him, and the more we desire to know him, our desire to please our God will be greater, and the allure of the world will be weaker (see Philippians 3:8–11).

The background is a solid teal color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns that resemble circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

DOES THE “WORLD” (1 JOHN 2:15–17) =
MODERN CULTURE?

RANDY LEEDY – *LOVE NOT THE
WORLD: WINNING THE WAR
AGAINST WORLDLINESS*

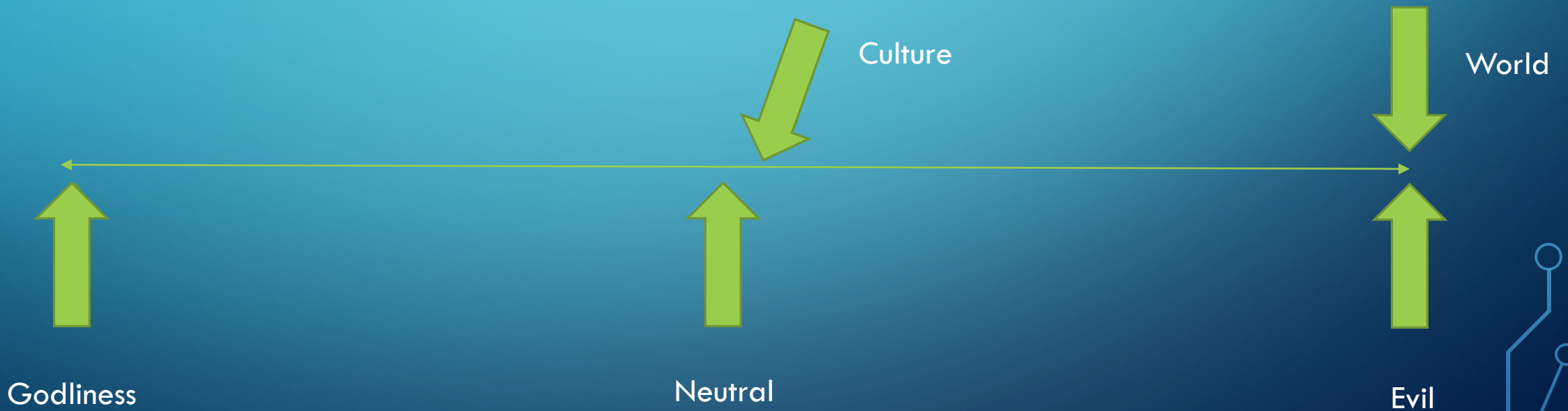


A COMPARISON OF “CULTURE” AND THE “WORLD”

- **Culture:** “the set of patterns of thought, communication, and behavior shared by a group of people living together as a society”
- **World:** “the unbelieving in all generations who demonstrate their lost condition and their separation from God by developing and pursuing values that are in direct opposition to His holy character as revealed in the Bible”

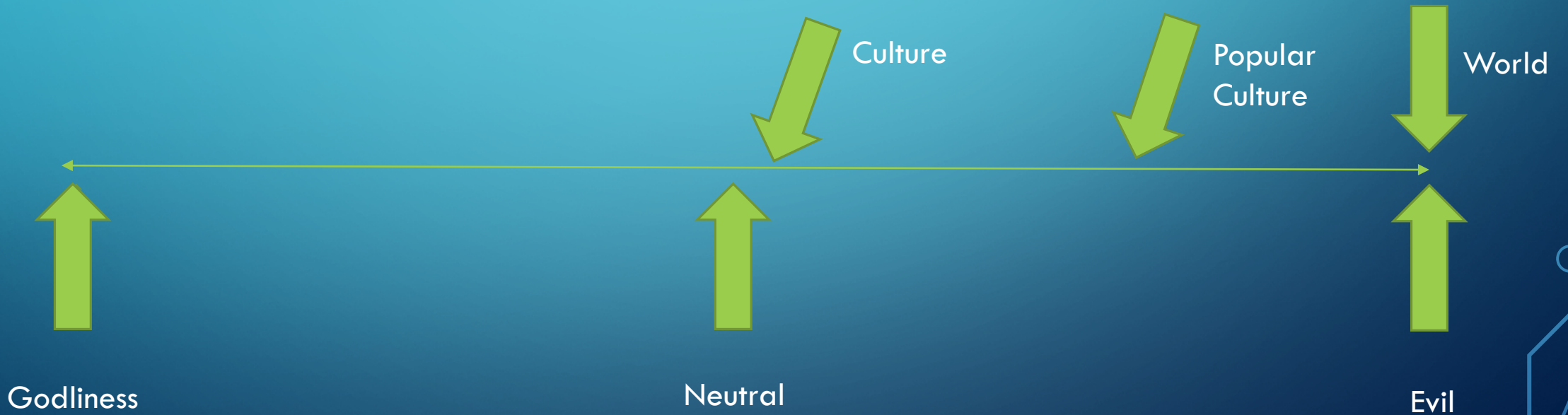
IS CULTURE MORALLY NEUTRAL?

- We must remember that culture is always made up of sinners, and their culture will always reflect varying degrees of sinfulness.



WHAT ABOUT MODERN CULTURE?

- **Popular Culture/“Pop” Culture:** contemporary culture as promoted by the various forms of media, often (but not always) appealing to sinful lusts.



The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are white line-art graphics resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

ISN'T MODERN CULTURE SYNONYMOUS WITH
WORLDLINESS?



TASTE ISN'T THE ONLY REASON I SMOKE

"People are always telling me that smoking causes low birth weight. Talk about a win-win-win! An easy labor, a slim baby, and the Full Flavor of Winstons!"

Winston
when you're smoking for two




SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking
by Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal
Injury, Birth Defects, and Low Birth Weight.

Winston 1000.com



“ AS WE SEEK TO GROW IN DISCERNMENT, AN IMPORTANT POINT TO CONSIDER IS THE FACT THAT CULTURES, AND THEREFORE SOME BOUNDARIES OF WORLDLINESS, ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING. A NEUTRAL ASPECT OF CULTURE MAY TAKE ON MORAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR A TIME AND THEN RESOLVE TO NEUTRALITY AGAIN AS THE WORLD MOVES ON TO SOME NEW EXPRESSION OF UNGODLINESS...IN THE 1970'S, MANY CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS OBJECTED TO FLARED PANTS, WIRE-RIMMED GLASSES, FACIAL HAIR, AND EVEN FLOOR-LENGTH SKIRTS. THE FACT THAT TODAY THESE ARE DEAD ISSUES FOR THE MOST PART DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THESE OBJECTIONS WERE MISGUIDED AT THAT TIME; THOUGHTFUL BELIEVERS RECOGNIZED A CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THEIR DAY THAT IS NO LONGER APPARENT TO US.”



“ IT IS A MISTAKE TO IMPOSE THE SENSIBILITIES OF ONE CULTURE UPON OTHER CULTURES, PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE. EXCEPT WHERE SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR ON UNIVERSAL HUMAN ISSUES, ONLY THOSE INTIMATE WITH A PARTICULAR CULTURE ARE POSITIONED TO EVALUATE BOUNDARIES OF WORLDLINESS WITH ACCURACY. CULTURAL DISTANCE ALWAYS CHALLENGES AND OFTEN HINDERS CULTURAL DISCERNMENT. ”

-Randy Leedy, *Love Not the World*, p. 106.





FURTHER THOUGHTS ON CULTURE AND WORLDLINESS

- Remember that the unredeemed culture will always move towards greater worldliness, while believers are to be moving towards godliness; these are two opposite directions (2 Timothy 3:1–17; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Much of the “worldliness” attached to something in a culture is related to its association within that culture, and remember that older/younger generations will naturally attach worldliness to something that has clear sinful associations, even if those associations are not as clear to other generations.

“ FORTUNATELY, THE ONLY CULTURE WITHIN WHICH OUR FATHER REQUIRES US TO KEEP OURSELVES UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD IS THE ONE—OR THE FEW, AS THE CASE MAY BE—IN WHICH WE ACTUALLY LIVE. FROM TIME TO TIME, WE MAY HAVE OCCASION TO TRY TO EVALUATE SOME ISSUE WITHIN ANOTHER CULTURE, BUT THE DIFFICULTIES RAISED BY CULTURAL DISTANCE REQUIRE US TO BE RESERVED AND TENTATIVE IN SUCH JUDGMENTS. ”

Randy Leedy, *Love Not the World*, p. 106.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS/APPLICATIONS

- We must be patient with any cultural transitions; it isn't our job to convince someone that something is not worldly, even if it was worldly several decades ago.
- We must defer to the weaker brother when our decisions will influence his walk with the Lord (1 Corinthians 8—10).
- We must be gracious with those believers who differ from us, recognizing that we too are still growing and are spiritual works in progress.
- We must honor the God-ordained authority structures placed in our life, and we must listen long to what they say and value their wisdom (Hebrews 13:17; Titus 2).
- We must have the Bible as our authority and never use it simply as a tool to justify what we like.