

Christ and Culture

Five Approaches to "Confronting the World"

"Culture" = Man's efforts to order the cosmos & define effective and correct ways to live in it.
The "Cultural Mandate" - Gen 1:27-28 - Man was "to cultivate" the Garden.

Christ against Culture	Christ and Culture in Paradox	Christ, Transformer of Culture (Conversion)	Christ above Culture	Christ of Culture
(Antithesis) PROTECTING	(Duelism) UNCHANGING	INFLUENCING	(Synthesis) BATTLING	(Equates) ASSIMILATING
Christians must make a radical break from their culture.	Christians live in the world, but oblivious to it - resting on tradition and faith while waiting for God's "kingdom".	Christians should endeavor to convert and redeem all man's cultural life for the glory of God.	Christians live in both "realms" and tries to either bring them together, or assert Christ's dominance over culture.	Christians find in Christ the high ideals for their cultural life and values.
These views see human culture as basically bad: sinful and evil - tends to despise God's good Creation and confuse redemption with deliverance from worldliness and cultural practices.	Man's cultural pursuits are created good, but now infected by sin, so human culture needs redemption and restoration.		These views see human culture as basically (or partially) good - tends to deny the full effects of the fall, and recreate Christ into various cultural images.	

It is important to consider how each position views the doctrines of:
Creation, Fall, Redemption

(See H. Richard Niebuhr, Christ and Culture; Jimmy Long, Generating Hope, Chapter 1)