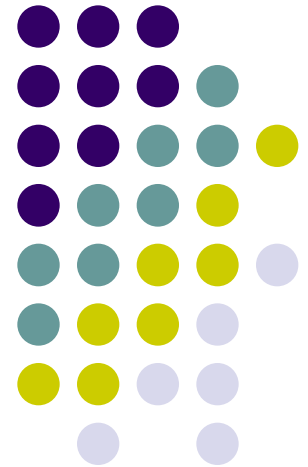
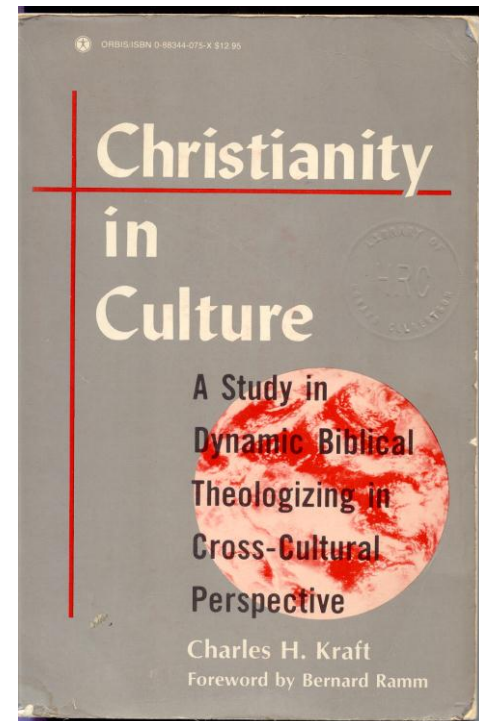
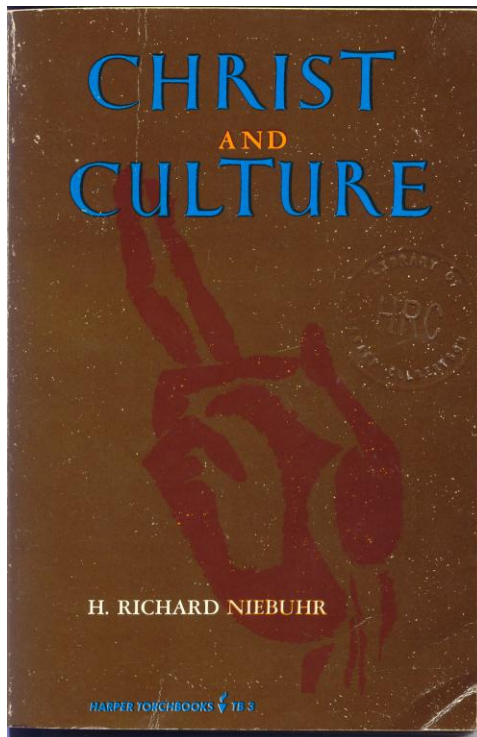
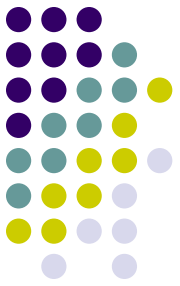


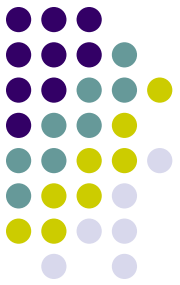
Religion and culture: How followers of religions view the larger culture

Cultural Anthropology
Southern Nazarene University



Two books





Richard Niebuhr

- Pastor in Evangelical and Reformed Church (St. Louis)
- Yale seminary professor when he published “Christ and Culture” (1951)

Niebuhr's classic positions

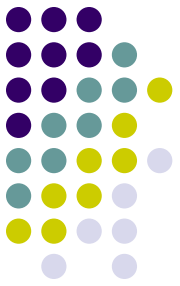


- Christ against culture
 - Following Christ means rejecting any loyalty to culture
 - Disengagement from the world because of the world's rebellion against God
 - A “holy huddle” of Christians who do not dialog with anyone else

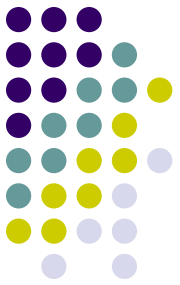
Niebuhr's classic positions



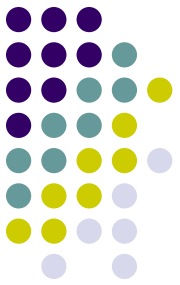
- Christ of culture
 - Christianity and culture become fused regardless of their differences
 - Affirming both Christ and culture and denying any necessary opposition between the two.



- Christ above culture
 - An attempt at a synthesis of the two
 - The issues of culture find an answer in Christian revelation
 - The church perceives that her role is fundamental if there is to be any cultural achievement



- Christ and culture in paradox
 - A tension between the church and the world around it, even as they interpenetrate one another
 - Each Christian is a subject of two realms--two "kingdoms," but one king, Christ.

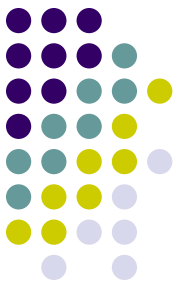


- Christ the transformer of culture
 - the kind of Puritan ethic which sees the whole of life as in some sense requiring to be converted to Christ



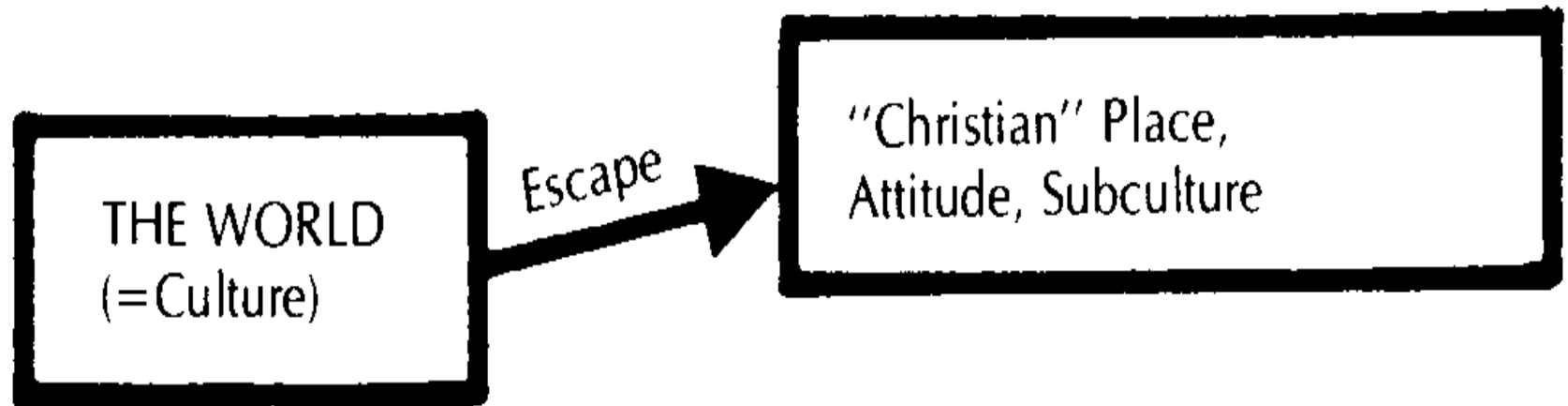
Charles Kraft

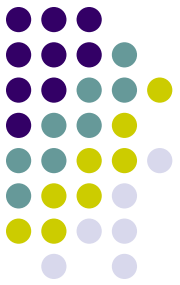
- Missionary anthropologist
- “Christianity in Culture,” 30 years after Niebuhr
- Sees 3 groupings of positions
 - God against culture
 - God in culture
 - God above culture



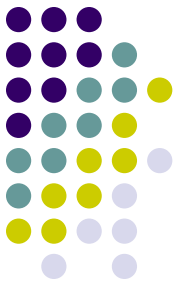
Charles Kraft's listing

- God against culture
 - Commitment to God is a decision to oppose culture
 - Assumes all of culture is evil
 - Speaking in tongues

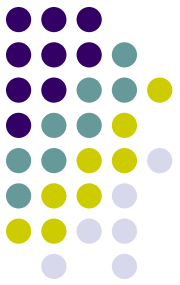




- 2 God-in-culture positions
 - God or Christ is merely culture hero (position of many anthropologists)
 - God is contained within, or at least endorses, one particular culture (Example: Hebrews)



- 5 God-above-culture positions
 - God is above culture and unconcerned about human beings
 - Deism, African religions
 - Ignore God while holding tightly to some of Jesus' teachings
 - Christians follow requirements of both Christ and culture, but each in its own place (Thomas Aquinas)



- 5 God-above-culture positions
 - Dualism in which Christian is like an amphibian
 - Conversionist (Augustine, Calvin)
 - Culture is corrupted but usable and even redeemable
 - Christ above-but-through-culture

[Summary web page](#)