

LOVE NOT THE WORLD,
neither the things that are in the world. If
any man love the world, the love of the
Father is not in him. For all that is in the
world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the
eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the
Father, but is of the world. And the world
passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he
that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

I John 2:15-17

What will we study?

Definition of “the world” in its evil sense

A short biblical definition:

The totality of unregenerate persons living on the earth within some period of time, along with the habitual patterns of thought and behavior by which they express their ignorance of and insubordination to God.

What will we study?

Definition of “the world” in its evil sense

A more theologically detailed definition:

A spiritual kingdom under the headship of Satan, in unremitting conflict with the Kingdom of God, consisting visibly of the mass of earth’s humanity that does not know God, who, in response to satanic allurements that plays upon and preys upon fallen human nature, corrupts the various aspects of God’s earthly creation into avenues for the gratification of self instead of the glory of God, thereby incurring eternal judgment and destruction.

What will we study?

Definition of “the world” in its evil sense

A simple, more functional definition:

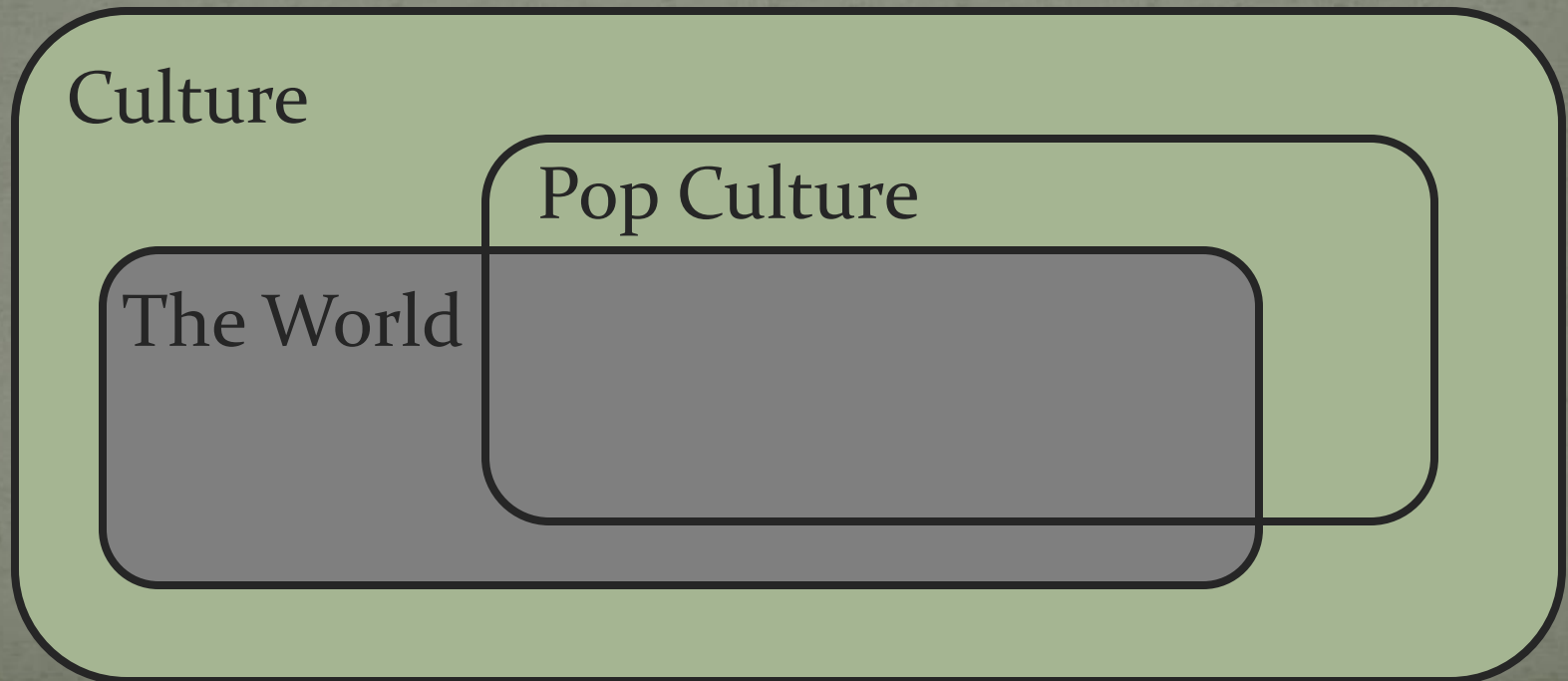
“The bad part of culture” (John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*).

The world: “The bad part of culture”

Culture: General patterns of thinking and behavior, both good and bad.

The world: Ungodly thinking and behavior, all bad.

Pop Culture: Media-driven culture; more bad than good.



Why study “the world”?

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Why study “the world”?

1. Because the Bible makes a big deal of this topic.
2. Because much is at stake.
3. Because the world’s power appears to be increasing.
4. Because we love God—don’t we?
Or are we delighting in the world and contentedly capitulating to it?

What do we hope to accomplish?

The objective is not

comprehensive

academic

The objective is

spiritual fruitfulness

growth in personal discipleship

equipping for warfare

in our lives personally

in the lives of those committed to our care

What are the conditions for success?

Honesty with ourselves before the Lord

Humility before the Lord

Desire to learn of our failures before the Lord

Willingness to accept correction from the Lord

Willingness to pursue change through the Lord's power

Willingness to persevere, through the Lord's power, in mortal combat with the world, the flesh, and the devil

Coming up:

January 13: Core Biblical teachings

January 20: Application to current issues

January 27: Overcoming

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