

## Response

by

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What do you think of when you hear the word culture? The way people dress, eat, talk, or worship? Emil Brunner refers to culture as “that which man does beyond biological necessity” (*Christianity and Civilization*). Our lives are lived within culture. But how do Christians, whether Western or Asian, deal with truth in the way they look at their world around them?

Theologian Richard Niebuhr addressed the issue in his lectures (1949) entitled *Christ and Culture*. He described Christ *against* culture, *of* culture, *above* culture, and the *Transformer* of culture.

One of the most important blessings in being Christian is being in touch with God. God did not ordain the West to arrogantly see herself as the voice of God to the world. God ordained the West to take their blessings and instructions from God to give benediction throughout the world. Christianity is never private. After being in touch with God, the truth and experience are shared.

It is conceit to think that all the people of the world need to be Western. The western missionaries did help Christianize the world. In addition to making converts, they made better medicine, better education, and better lives. Culture that exalts a nation is rooted in Christ’s gospel.

Christianity must be dressed in Christ’s robe, not a nation’s flag.

Theologian Karl Barth (*Theology and Church*) warned that “in the building of the tower of Babel whose top is to touch heaven, the Church can have no part. The hope of the Church rests on God for men; it does not rest on men, not even on religious men—and not even on the belief that men with the help of God will finally build that tower.”

God provides all peoples the blessings of salvation, wisdom, grace, and light in and of Himself as well as through the blessings of His followers.

Jesus is the Light of the whole world. While light makes no noise, it cannot be silenced. It flies in space from ocean to ocean and from land to land. It is this light—Jesus Christ—who reveals the Father and will bring all nations to see and know the Light of the world.

May Christlikeness be the appetite of every culture in all times.