

# CULTURE SHOCK

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO TODAY'S MOST DIVISIVE ISSUES

CHIPPINGRAM

# CULTURE SHOCK

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THE ENVIRONMENT ABORTION HOMOSEXUALITY CHURCH SEXUALITY POLITICS TRUTH CHURCH SEXUA  
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## SESSION 1

# WHAT EVER HAPPEND TO RIGHT AND WRONG?

## PART 1

## CULTURE SHOCK

## TAKE IT IN

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### We've Got a Problem!

- The Symptom = Our Moral \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Issue = Ethics and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Dilemma = Who's to say what's \_\_\_\_\_ and wrong?
- The Question = What is \_\_\_\_\_?

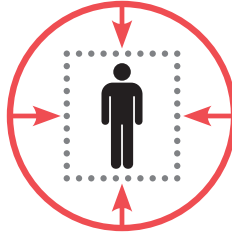
### Understanding the Real Problem:

Diagnosis – Our view of truth has dramatically shifted in the last 50-60 years.

- **Among Intellectuals:**  
Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
- **In Education:**  
The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom
- **In Law & Science:**  
Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education by Phillip E. Johnson
- **In Culture:**  
Escape from Reason and The God Who Is There by Francis A. Schaeffer

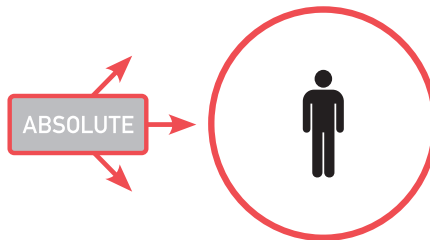
## Summarizing the Two Models of Truth:

### “Truth is Relative” Existential Concept of Truth



This circle represents our experience. The dotted square is truth as the individual perceives it to be for himself through his experience.

### “Truth is Absolute” Classical Thesis-Antithesis of Truth



This circle represents our experience. The rectangle represents unchanging truth that is absolute. It affects the realm of our experience, but is just as true in its effect on all of life, whether experienced or not.

Pluralism = all opinions have equal value.

The #1 virtue of relative truth is \_\_\_\_\_.

## TALK IT OVER

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1. What is the biggest moral shift you've seen in your lifetime?

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2. Share some examples of things that used to be considered absolute truth, but now they are relative.

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3. How do you respond to Chip's statement that we have a problem in the church? Why do you think the church hasn't been effective in stemming the tide of relativism?

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4. How do you think this drift toward relativism has impacted you personally? Your kids? Your grandchildren? Your church?

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## LIVE IT OUT – B.I.O.

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BIO is a word that is synonymous with “life”. The key to helping you become the person God wants you to be is found in these three simple letters: B.I.O.

### B = COME “BEFORE GOD” DAILY

Meet with Him personally through His word and prayer to enjoy His presence, receive His direction, and follow His will.

### I = DO LIFE “IN COMMUNITY” WEEKLY

Structure your week to personally connect in safe relationships that provide love, support, transparency, challenge, and accountability.

### O = BE “ON MISSION” 24/7

Cultivate a mindset to “live out” Jesus’ love for others through acts of sacrifice and service at home, work, play, and church.

## COME BEFORE GOD

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5. Have someone in the group read Psalm 119:89-96. What words in this passage describe God’s unchanging truth? What phrase or verse most challenges you personally? Why?

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## DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

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6. What specific things can your group do to help challenge you to become a better “thinker” when it comes to our faith? Make a list of 2 or 3 ideas.

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## BE ON MISSION

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7. What action step will you take this week in order to get better equipped to know what you believe and why you believe it? (i.e. download a message to listen to, read a chapter of a doctrinal book, or review this message privately)

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## ACCELERATE (20 MINUTES THAT TURN CONCEPTS INTO CONVICTIONS)

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Inspiration comes from hearing God's Word; motivation grows by discussing God's Word; transformation occurs when you study it for yourself.

If you want to "accelerate" your growth, here is an assignment you can do this week. To help you get the most out of this exercise, consider partnering up with somebody in your group who will also commit to do the assignment this week. Then, after you have each done the assignment, agree to spend 10 minutes by phone to share what you learned and what you are applying.

## COME BEFORE GOD

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1. Read the following passage carefully and slowly.

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

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PROVERBS 2:1-6 (NIV)

2. Go through this passage and circle all of the verbs.
3. Now, go through the passage and underline all the words or phrases that are synonymous with God's truth.
4. How would you describe your appetite for God's truth? What currently is keeping you from searching for it as for hidden treasure? When is the best time of the day for you to read/study God's Word personally?

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## DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

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5. Get together with a Christian friend this week or plan a 15 minute phone call and have the following conversation. Share one significant truth you are learning from God's Word and one cultural issue that you would like to understand and be able to articulate from a Christian worldview.

## BE ON MISSION

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6. During this week's session, Chip challenged us to have some conversations around the dinner table about why you believe what you believe. Select one "absolute truth" that you can share with your family or friends around the dinner table this week. Help them not only know what you believe, but also what is the basis for your belief about that truth.

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