

CULTURAL OPERATING SYSTEMS

We Are All Created in God's Image

- How we view the world is tied to differing worldviews, or cultural operating systems
- Each cultural operating system has its own logic and presupposition

Honor-Shame Cultures

- Collectivistic cultures which are common in East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.
- People feel shame when they fail to live up to the expectations of their family or community.
- Honor is the greatest social commodity.
- Jesus solved the problem of shame by living a perfectly honorable life while taking the world's shame upon Himself. Our shame is replaced with the honor of becoming children of God.
- Example of a Japanese woman dying of cancer going to visit her sisters and not speaking of the cancer as a way to preserve honor and maintain harmony.
- Example of a group of African children racing to the tree holding hands.

Guilt-Innocence Cultures

- These societies are individualistic and tend to be in North America and Western Europe.
- When people break laws, they feel guilt and seek justice or forgiveness to rectify their wrong-doing.
- Jesus solved the problem of guilt by living a sinless life and taking away our sins.
- Example of the 12-year-old interviewing President Obama representing the Western ideals of individualism, direct speech, and equality of all people, regardless of position.

Fear-Power Cultures

- These animistic cultures tend to be in sub-Saharan Africa and South America.
- People live in fear of evil so they pursue power over the spirit world through magical rituals and alignment with powerful people.
- Jesus solved the problem of fear by overcoming death on the Cross. He then sent us the Holy Spirit who gives us power to be like Christ.
- The Western worldview has been so impacted by scientific rationalism that we exclude the "middle" dimension of spiritual forces in our world.
- We ignore the real presence of spiritual beings in our world or we dismiss them as "unscientific superstition".

A Few Important Caveats:

- No culture is only one cultural operating system (cOS).
 - No person is only one cOS.
 - There are more than three, it depends on the sociologist or anthropologist you ask, but there are three PRIMARY cOS.
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