



ANTHROPOLOGICAL WORLDVIEWS





INTRODUCTION

- *A Brief Theology of Culture*
- *Definition of Culture*
- *Levels of Culture*



TOP LEVEL OF CULTURE

Observable Behaviors and Products

- Eating
- Clothing
- Personal Space
- Housing
- Music
- Public Noise
- Transportation
- Cleanliness
- Family



TOP LEVEL OF CULTURE

Observable Behaviors and Products

- Many of these things are morally neutral
- This is critically important
- Different is not always morally or spiritually bad
- Sometimes, where no commandment of Scripture is at stake, different is simply different.



MIDDLE LAYER OF CULTURE

Known Beliefs and Public Observances

- Beliefs
 - Official Religion
 - Governmental System
 - Economic System
- Public Holidays
 - e.g., Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year
- Life Cycle Observances
 - Birth
 - Coming of Age
 - Marriage
 - Funerals



DEEPEST LAYER OF CULTURE

Worldview

- **Definition:** “The foundational cognitive, affective and evaluative assumptions and frameworks a group of people makes about the nature of reality which they use to order their lives”
- How you think, how you feel, how you judge
- Like a computer operating system
- Implicit and usually unexamined



DEEPEST LAYER OF CULTURE

Worldview

- Cognitive Elements:
 - Time
 - Space
 - Identity
 - Logic
 - Causation
 - Nature of the Universe
 - One Level – Secular materialism
 - Two Levels – Most Western Christians
 - Three Levels – Most of the rest of the world



DEEPEST LAYER OF CULTURE

Worldview

- **Affective Elements**
- Beauty, style, aesthetics
 - Really does vary from culture to culture – or even time to time
 - e.g. ideas about fat, thin, & beauty (“You are fat!”)
- Optimistic/Pessimistic
- World affirming/world denying
- Expressive/repressive



DEEPEST LAYER OF CULTURE

Worldview

- **Evaluative Elements**
 - What is good or bad, right or wrong?
 - Guilt & Innocence
 - Honor & Shame
 - Fear & Power



MAJOR WORLDVIEW STREAMS

- Secular Materialist
- Hindu/Buddhist
- Animist
- Jewish/Islamic
- Biblical Christian



