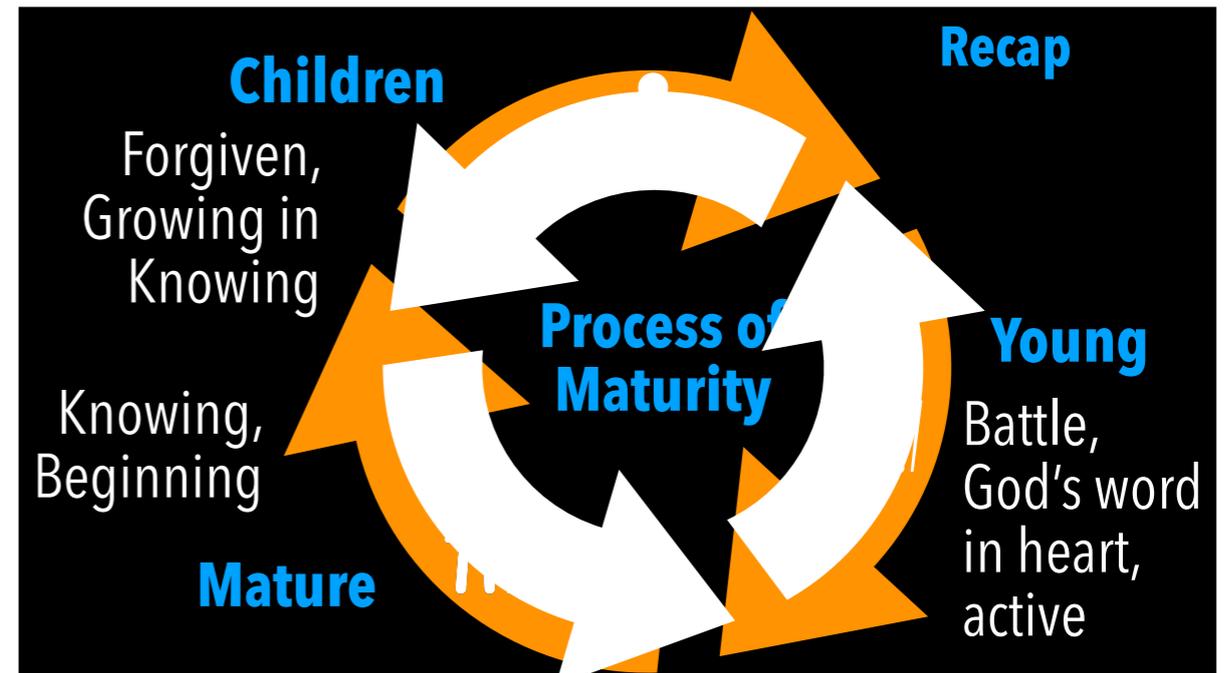


I JOHN
PEOPLE OF THE LIGHT

What Do You Love?



If we claim we have no sin	Recap Confession	I am writing to you who are God's children
If someone claims , "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments	Knowing	I am writing to you who are mature
If anyone claims , "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer	Battle	I am writing to you who are young

Recap

Where are you? **How long** have you been there?

3 Views on the Relationship between Christianity and Culture, Ryan Nelson

This first perspective sees Christianity and culture as two **opposing** forces of influence. The church stands on one side of the line, and culture on the other.

This stance transforms the church into a **sanctuary**, where people seek refuge from the spiritual siege of the outside world. Christians sometimes talk about trying to find the balance between immersing yourself in the world and isolating yourself in a comfy little bubble. This perspective has fully embraced the **bubble**.

3 Views on the Relationship between Christianity and Culture, Ryan Nelson

The second view **embraces** culture and brings it **into** the church.

Those with a 'Christianity of culture' perspective tend to build churches that are **mirrors** of the culture.

By becoming a **reflection** of culture, the church can lose its position as a champion of a better way to live. When Christians embrace the "grey areas," the better way of life we offer can become a grey area, too.

3 Views on the Relationship between Christianity and Culture, Ryan Nelson

A third and better mindset is one that views human beings as **representatives** of Christ who live their lives **in the midst** of and for the good of their cultural context, and whose cultural lives are characterized by obedience and witness.

God created the structure that allows culture to exist, shift, and progress. As humans, we formulate and shape that culture **within God's structure**.

"Every aspect of human life and culture is ripe for Christian witness. **Every dimension of culture**, whether it is art, science, or politics, is an arena in which we can speak about Christ with our lips and reflect him with our lives. We thank God for the existence of culture and recognize whatever is good in it, while at the same time seeking to **redirect** whatever is not good toward Christ." [Bruce Ashford, Every Square Inch](#)

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: '**Mine!**'" Abraham Kuyper

"Tell me what the world is saying **today**, and I'll tell you what the church will be saying in **seven years**." Francis Schaeffer

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever **1 John 2:15-17 ESV**

But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they **love** him. That is how we know we are living in him **1 John 2:5**

This old commandment—to **love** one another—is the same message you heard before. **vs 7**

Anyone who **loves** a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble **vs 10**

Do not love the **world** or the **things** in the world
Love (agapao): to love dearly, to be **contented** with

"love for the world precludes and even
"pushes out" love for God" [William Barclay](#)

"the human heart is a perpetual **idol
factory**" John Calvin, modern translation
"the human condition is **driven** by idolatry"

Do not love the **world** or the **things** in the world

Does the world **satisfy** you?

For I will **satisfy the weary soul**, and every
languishing soul I will replenish. [Jeremiah 31:25](#)

And what do you benefit if you **gain the whole
world** but **lose your own soul**? Is anything
worth more than your soul? [Mark 8:36-37](#)

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not **in** him

"If we loved the world the way God loves it, we wouldn't
love it the way we **shouldn't** love it." [Anonymous](#)

"A man caught up with this world is not
ready for the **next one**." [John Blanchard](#)

John presupposes our **capacity** for love as finite.
Therefore, love of the world is not a static
proposition. It is a continual ebb and flow.

For all that is in the world—the desires of the **flesh**
Self Satisfaction

"Natural desires are at rest when that which is desired is
obtained, but corrupt desires are **insatiable**. Nature is
content with little, grace with less, but lust with nothing."
[Matthew Henry](#)

Lust of the flesh isn't simply **sexual** as many interpret it, it
also **laziness** in our spiritual lives. It is seeking **comfort**
at every occasion. It is **spiritual apathy** as a way of life

For all that is in the world... the desires of the **eyes**

Self Deception

In Scripture, the eyes are the primary organ of **perception** and often the principal avenue of **temptation**. We become what we **focus (attention)** on

"If your eye is bad, your **whole body** will be full of darkness." [Matthew 6:22](#)

For I **envied** the proud when I **saw** them prosper despite their wickedness. [Psalm 73:3](#)

For all that is in the world... **pride** of life

Self Glorification

"the pride of life," describes the arrogant spirit of **self-sufficiency**. The proud are unteachable

It expresses the desire for recognition, applause, status, and advantage in life. The phrase describes the pride in what life can **offer** you.

"If the **truth** was known and believed, pride would not exist. Your pride comes from **lies** that you are believing." [Brooks Szewczyk](#)

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

"The lust of the flesh is the desire to **do** something apart from the will of God. The lust of the eyes is the desire to **have** something apart from the will of God. The pride of life is the desire to **be** something apart from the will of God. The first desire appeals mainly to the **body**, the second to the **soul**, and the third to the **spirit**." [Dr. Thomas L. Constable](#)

Eve & Jesus

tree was good for **food**

tell these stones to become loaves of **bread**

that it was a delight to the **eyes**

holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the **Temple**

and that the tree was to be desired to make one **wise**

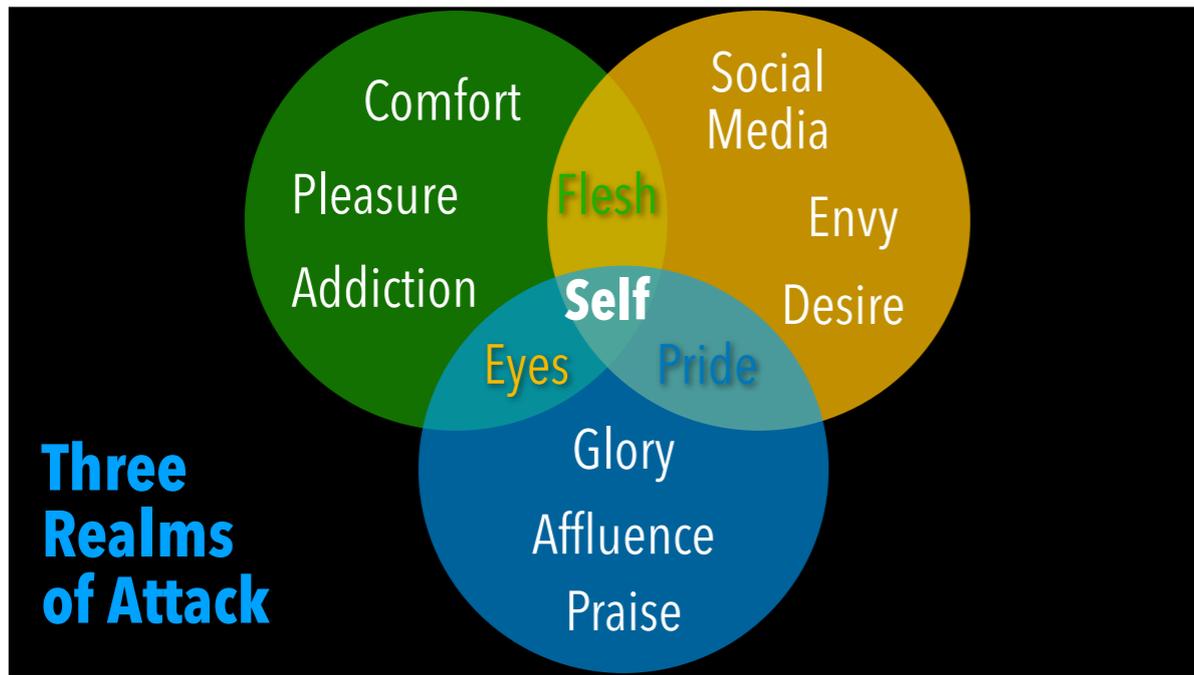
showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their **glory**. "I will give it all to you"

Temptation

Flesh

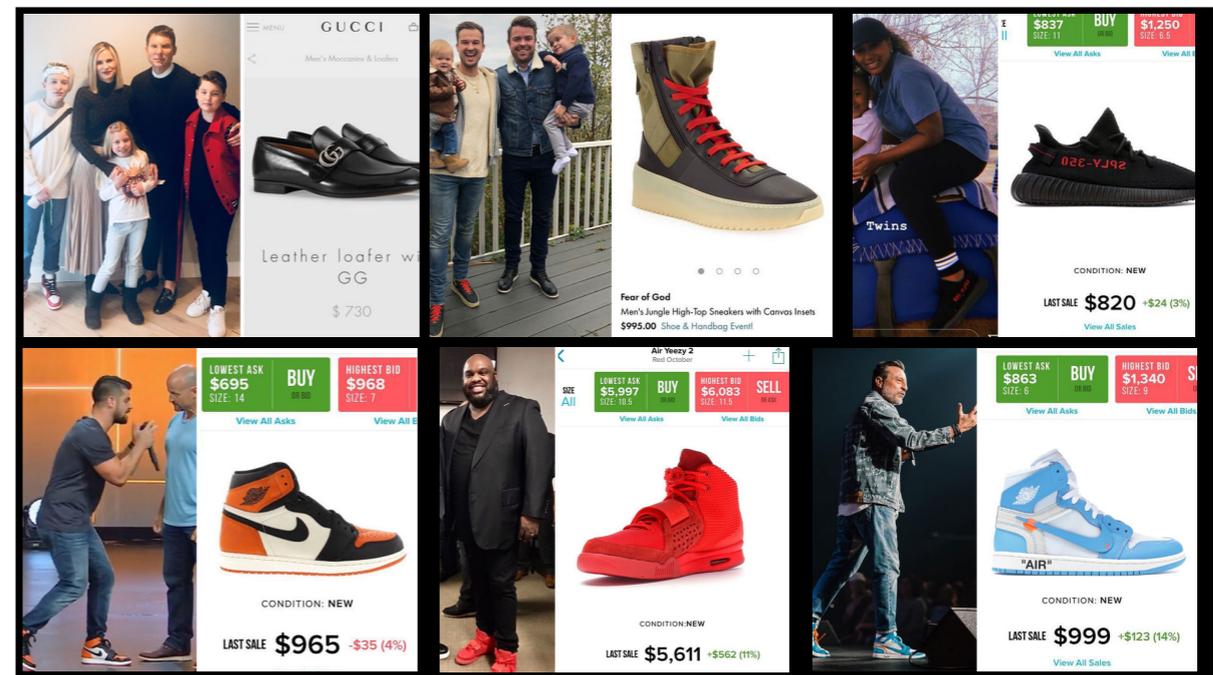
Eyes

Pride



And the world is **passing** away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever
 Whatever commands our **time, energy, and resources** commands us. And if we are honest, we will admit that our lives really aren't that different from those of our secular counterparts. I suspect that one of the reasons we are so **ineffective** in evangelism is that **we are so much like the people around us** that we have very little to which we can call them. We hang around church buildings a little more. We abstain from a few things. But we simply aren't that different. [Steven Cole](#)

And the world is **passing** away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever
 We don't even do hedonism as well as the folks around us ... but we keep on trying. As a result of this unfortunate accommodation, Christianity is **reduced** to little more than a spiritual crutch to help us through the minefields of the upwardly mobile life. God is there to help us get our promotions, our house in the suburbs, and our bills paid. Somehow **God has become a co-conspirator in our agendas** instead of our becoming a co-conspirator in His. Something is seriously amiss. [Steven Cole](#)



Christians throughout the centuries have often taken a **countercultural** posture, but a prominent portion of the American **church is now taking cues from the celebrity-culture** craze that grips Western society at large. Many churches now function similarly to the rest of the world – even, yes, like a nightclub. Though pietistic evangelicals have long attacked Hollywood, their churches, institutions and leaders now celebrate and reward the “blessing” of fame, popularity and influence. Talk about irony. [Tyler Jones, PreachersNSneakers Creator](#)

The world hated him (Jesus) because he constantly challenged its **basic philosophy**. He was in continual **protest** against that to which the world was irrevocably committed. [Ray Stedman](#)

I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **I'm not asking you to take them out of the world**, but to keep them safe from the evil one. **They do not belong to this world** any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, **I am sending them into the world**. [John 17:14-18](#)

UCC TRIVIA NIGHT

**Wednesday,
February 24th, 7pm**



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