

## Discerning Culture

*Answers from Culture and the Bible*

February 3, 2013

### I. The Extensive Effect of Culture

On Sunday we began by talking about the extensive effect of culture. We said that culture is like an ocean. We are the fish. We are surrounded by the ocean. We are influenced by it. We see everything through it. We can't escape it.

1. In what ways does culture have an influence on you?
2. In relation to the extensive effect of culture, what advice do the NT writers give? (e.g., Rom. 12:2; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 Pet. 1:13)

### II. The Four Ultimate Questions

There are four ultimate questions that everyone must answer for themselves. However, our culture constantly tries to answer for us. List the four ultimate questions below.<sup>1</sup>

1. \_\_\_\_\_ :
2. \_\_\_\_\_ :
3. \_\_\_\_\_ :
4. \_\_\_\_\_ :

### III. Answering the Four Ultimate Questions

1. Of the four questions, why is the first one the most important?
2. What are some of the popular answers to the four ultimate questions from culture?
3. What are the biblical answers for the four ultimate questions?

### IV. Application

1. When/where are you most susceptible to the influences of culture?
2. Should you adjust the amount of information you take in from secular culture? How do you plan to do this?
3. If you have children, what is your plan to ensure that they are aware of the influence of culture and the importance of knowing the truth from God's word?

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<sup>1</sup> (1) Origin, (2) Meaning, (3) Morality, (4) Destiny.