

## Interaction Essay: Chapter 2 Soul, Self and Society

In Chapter 2 of *Soul, Self and Society*<sup>1</sup>, Rynkiewicz discusses and analyzes anthropological concepts including culture, ethnocentrism, and contextualization. *The author's main thesis is that as stewards of God's creation, we are not only responsible for affirming culture by treating others with dignity and respect but also challenging culture by speaking up about sin and participating in God's redemption by proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel.* The author defines culture as more or less a integrated system of knowledge, values, feelings that people use to define their reality, interpret their experience and generate appropriate strategies for living; a system that people learn from other people around them and share with other people in a social setting; a system that people use to adapt to their spiritual, social, and physical environments; and a system that people use to innovate in order to change themselves as their environments change<sup>1</sup>.

The key themes are the Gospel affirms culture, the Gospel challenges culture, and the Gospel redeems culture<sup>1</sup>. First, I have the responsibility to affirm culture. As an intern at the Bowery Mission, I am called to treat the men at the Men's residential recovery program with dignity and respect regardless of their walk in life. Second, I am called to challenge culture. As a Christian worker at the Bowery, I am called to speak up about sin with the men's population there. Lastly, I participate in God's redemption plan with culture by preaching and teaching the men's population at Bowery Mission about the Gospel.

Two questions for further engaging this topic: (1) How do we proclaim the Gospel to other cultures, and (2) How do we demonstrate the Gospel to other cultures?

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<sup>1</sup>

Rynkiewicz, M. *Soul, Self and Society: A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Postcolonial World*. Eugene,

OR: Cascade Books, 2011.