Justin Tung
Rynkiewich Chapter 2 Interaction Paper

Chapter 2 of Rynkiewich's *Soul, Self and Society*, talks about the details of culture in regards to perception, cognition and emotion. Rynkiewich explains how each person's perception of the world is partial and limited based on one's own experiences and behavioral repetition. Human beings make sense of the reality that they are in through a personal and unique lens. Rynkiewich defines culture as " more or less integrated system of knowledge, values, and feelings that people use to define their reality, interpret their experiences, 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 environment; and a system that people use to innovate in order to change themselves as their environments change. (19) Rynkiewich also goes on in the chapter to explain ethnocentrism and cultural realitivism. He writes how human beings are unaware of many of their own cultural biases because culture is most often caught instead of taught.

Personally, it was interesting to learn about the contextualization of the Gospel. It resonated with me when the author wrote about how a problem in Christianity is when a culture gets stuck in Christianity for so long that Jesus no longer is universal and appropriate for other culture, including the culture's own young generation. I find this to be true in the Chinese church, especially between the transition between first generation immigrant Chinese Christians and the second-generation Chinese immigrant Christians who now have adopted the American culture. There must be a shift in order to reach the second generation Asian American Christians.

One question that arose from this chapter was how one would balance understanding God's word alone holds power and contextualizing the gospel for a specific culture. Secondly, another question that arose was how does social media and internet change how one would share the gospel online cross-culturally? Or if social media has its own culture in itself.