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CS501
Chapter 2 Interaction Paper

Soul, Self, and Society: A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Postcolonial World by Michael A. Rynkiewich states on page 11 that “The concerns addressed in this chapter are the issues of *perception* or sensing reality, *cognition* or thinking about reality, and *emotion* or feeling about reality.” Rynkiewich states this at the beginning of his second chapter.

Rynkiewich first starts by explaining what everyone’s perception of reality is. He goes the scientific route in explaining how humans perceive reality based on fragmentations and how their mind works with said fragmentations. No one knows everything about the world, or what it has to offer. Theoretically, that is impossible. Only God is capable of being omnipresent. Consequently, what we base our reality on is from our limited interactions with the world. This then influences our imagination and ultimately our reality. Considering our imagination seems to be more real to us than anything else, we sometimes tend to confuse our imagination with reality. This led to Rynkiewich’s introduction of Anthropology, “the study of ‘the ways of mankind,’ the different ways in which humans perceive, evaluate, and respond to the world around them” (Rynkiewich, 14). This in turn led to Rynkiewich’s discussion on culture, which is where a good chunk of the second chapter lies. “Culture is a more or less integrated system of knowledge, values and feelings that people use to define their reality (worldview), interpret their experiences, and generate appropriate strategies for living” (Rynkiewich, 19). The author spends a good time discussing culture, how it takes shape, what its root is, and more.

Personally, I found this reading to be eye opening, especially the beginning that had to deal with one’s imagination vs reality. It makes me wonder for myself what is reality? How does this affect my reading of the Bible? I am wondering if there is a way to tie this back to the Bible

itself. I do believe that the discussion on culture will continue throughout this book, but it is the beginning of the second chapter that really caught my attention.