

CongZhou_CS501 Chapter Interaction Paper Week2

- i. One sentence thesis statement.

Culture is a constructed system that people uses to interpret meanings/values/beliefs of their environment and its elements.

- ii. One paragraph summary.

According to the author, culture is an umbrella term that covers a multitude of knowledge, values and beliefs that the brain learns and uses to interpret the symbols in order to make sense of the reality. People use culture as the lens to see the world and to engage with it. Human beings generally have two way to use culture: the ethnocentric way and the contextualized way. The former tends to use one culture as the standard to judge other cultures while the latter focuses on learning the context of cultures to be able to appreciate and evaluate them.

- iii. Personal interaction with specific themes in the readings.

I think it is brilliant to say that culture is the philosophical foundation (or part of the foundation) of people's perception. The author also believes that culture is constructed. I feel that the author categorizes culture as a form of "belief system." Therefore, it is natural to say that we need to be conscious of our own biases, especially when it comes to exegesis and shaping church's culture. We do not want to limit our Lord Jesus to our own culture but want to see Him as transcultural and culturally fulfilling.

- iv. Two questions for further engaging this topic.

1. How can we become aware of our own cultural biases? 2. Does the Church do a good job in helping the world understand the church culture?