

Christianity has always been “Counter Cultural” in Anthropological terms, meaning it acts as a restraint on secular human cultural tendencies. Christianity looks to the eternal order God designed for all people of all ages; it doesn’t change to suit our desires, instead we are transformed by it to become what God intended. In contrast, the secular order is more fluid and subject to no guidance other than what humanity agrees to impose upon the culture. Social norms, mores, ethics and morality are fixed in Christian culture based upon God’s revelation of what is Good in Scripture. Social norms, mores, ethics and morality are fluid in secular culture subject to nothing but what society chooses. There is obviously a built-in tension between Christian and secular cultures; something that we’ll explore in these articles.

This series entitled “Christian Anthropology” had its genesis in personal studies originally called “Discovery and Opinion Papers.” God would bring areas of interest to mind which I would then research them, and write articles which chronicled my thought development. I use the term “articles” because I didn’t want them to be excessively academic... in keeping with all the material developed for Authentic Discipleship. I wanted these articles to be informative and thought provoking, but less formal, more conversational and welcoming to a wider audience. Also, I wanted to draw more heavily from the thoughts and teachings of known Christian leaders and act more as a narrator describing and guiding thought development. What I thought would be a short series turned into a rather lengthy volume of topical articles. When you read through these articles be sure to ask questions and do some research of your own. “Question Reality” and “Question Authority” have been the hallmarks of my personal scientific and spiritual development. Do your own thinking and do your own work; don’t merely accept what others would tell you. Take responsibility for your own thought process and learn how to both articulate and defend your thoughts.

I want to take a moment to thank some very important people without whom these articles would never have developed into their present form. First, my wife and best friend Cindy who has read and edited every article on the Authentic Discipleship platform. It is definitely one thing to have cogent thought development, but it is quite another to be able to present it properly. Cindy’s talent was not merely helpful, it was absolutely necessary! Second, my Board of Directors – my good friends and advisors who have volunteered their time, insight and encouragement. Jim Bogue and I have been best friends since the mid-1970’s, and we both did our undergraduate work in Cultural Anthropology. Bruce Hewitt who is another best friend and the best hire I ever made in my 35-year tenure as an executive in Corporate America. We worked together as partners for over a decade and realized success neither of us could have accomplished alone. Bryan Bode and I became friends through our study at Western Seminary and we have mentored and coached each other for the better part of a decade. He is a bright, talented and wise friend and contributor. No one works alone and finds success; it is in the team dynamic and contribution that we become more than we can be by ourselves. I am grateful for their help and guidance. I hope you enjoy these articles; it was for you that we have labored together.

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President and Founder – Authentic Discipleship