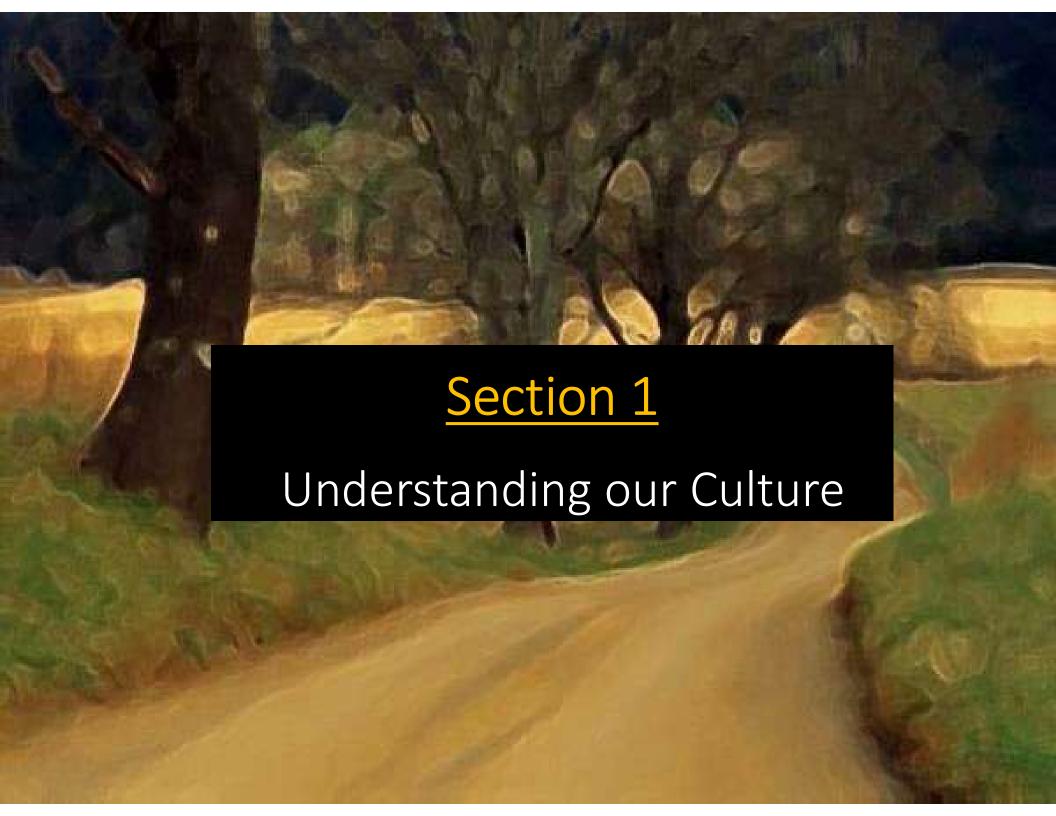
# SHORT ANSWERS JUBSINONS

OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

## Big Questions

- Week 1: How do I know God exists and created all things?
- Week 2: Who is Jesus and why is He the only Way to God?
- Week 3: How do I know the Bible is the inspired, trustworthy Word of God?
- Week 4: How does man's free will and God's sovereignty coexist?
- Week 5: If God is good, why is there sin and suffering in the world?
- Week 6: What does God's Word say about current social issues?
- Week 7: What does it look like for me to be salt and light in the world?
- Week 8: How do I communicate the Gospel to people far from God?



# Social Issues The Moral Struggle

Religious and individual freedoms are safeguarded by the Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence.

However, when these freedoms <u>cross the line</u> of God's moral law and are accepted as <u>normative</u> by governments and the culture, Christians are put in a difficult position.

### Diagnostic framework:

- Identify the secular messages we receive.
- How do these messages influence/impact the believer?
- How does it contrast with the teaching of Scripture?
- How do we live in a way that provides a counter cultural alternative to the pervasive cultural view?

#### Relativism

- Points of view have no absolute truth or validity within themselves. "My truth, your truth."
- There is no absolute truth, only the truths that a particular person or culture happen to believe.
- No objective external standard for right and wrong that is valid for everyone.

#### Relativism: What are the messages we hear?

- It is intolerant to call anyone's views wrong.
- I am entitled to and am the source of my own truth.
- Every truth is equally valid.
- I am accountable to no one but myself. Being true to myself is the highest goal.

#### The effects of relativism

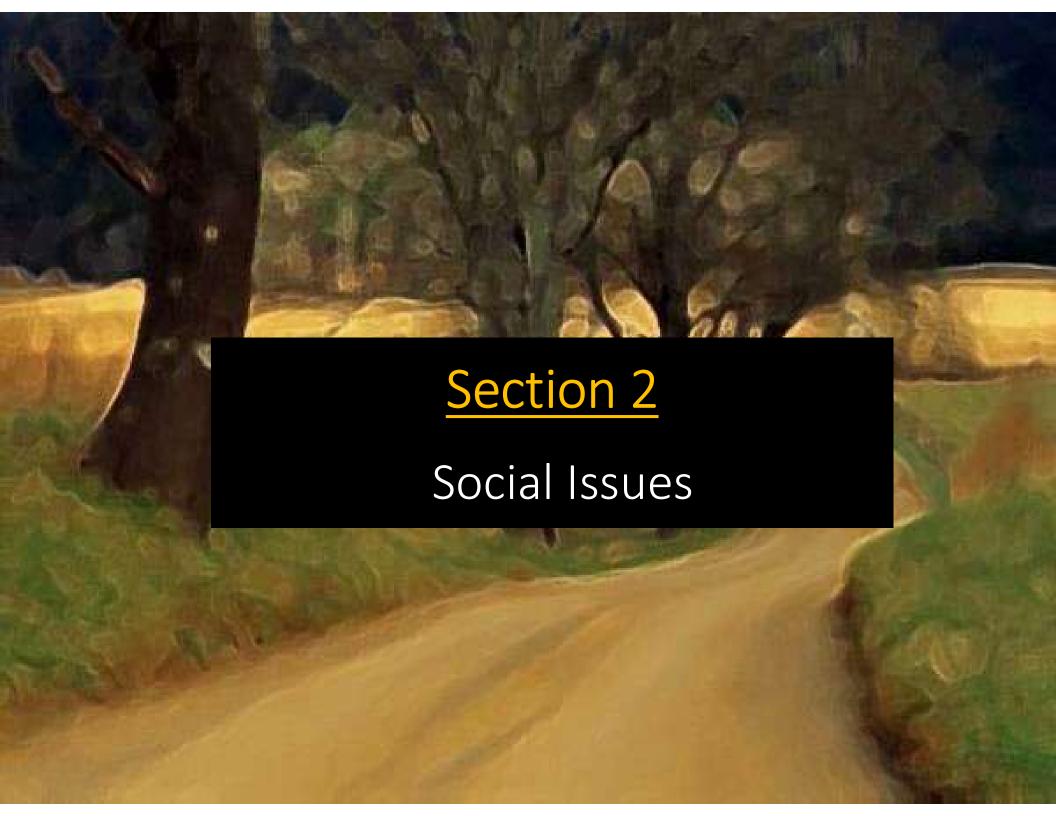
- Rebellion against a universally binding divine law.
- Breeds hypocrisy and a double standard.
- Words no longer communicate a shared, universally accepted meaning.
- It claims to be humble.
- It creates a moral vacuum.



### Pluralism

- Plurality: From the many one. Diverse ethnic, racial, religious groups with a common unity.
- Pluralism: All views are equally true and valid. No ultimate point of reference.
- Religious pluralism: different world religions represent equally true and valid. We have a plurality but no unity.





# Movement Statement of Faith Christian & Missionary Alliance

#### Sanctity of Life

"Human life is created by God and is good. Since we are uniquely created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and formed by God (Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Psalm 139:13–16), we hold to the sanctity of all human life (Genesis 9:6; Matthew 6:26)."

#### Marriage

"Marriage is a good gift from God for companionship, sexual intimacy, and procreation (Genesis 1:28, 2:24) where one man and one woman are joined together in a lifelong and exclusive holy covenant before God (Malachi 2:14–16; Matthew 19:4–6; Hebrews 13:4)."

#### Sexuality & Gender

"For a man and a woman, intimacy may be expressed and consummated sexually when they are united as one flesh in marriage (Genesis 2:24). We also believe that God's design is that our created biological sex determines whether we are male or female."

# Social Issues Sanctity of Human Life

" So, God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

"For you formed my inward parts;

you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:13-14 (ESV)

# Social Issues Sanctity of Human Life

### Human Life is Sacred

Created in God's Moral Image

Created with Distinction

Created for a Purpose

Create for Fellowship with God

Created for Eternity

### Social Issues

God's Design for Marriage & Sexuality

6 "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'
7 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,
8 and the two will become one flesh.'
So, they are no longer two, but one flesh."

Mark 10:6-8 (NLT)

Also Genesis 2:21-24, Matthew 19:3-9, and Ephesians 5:31

### Social Issues

God's Design for Marriage & Sexuality

### <u>Marriage</u>

Union of One Man + One Woman Physical, Emotional, Spiritual

Represents Oneness, Unity

Unity of the Trinity

Covenantal Bond

Christ's Covenant with the Church

## Social Issues

God's Design for Marriage & Sexuality

### Sexuality

Reserved for Marriage

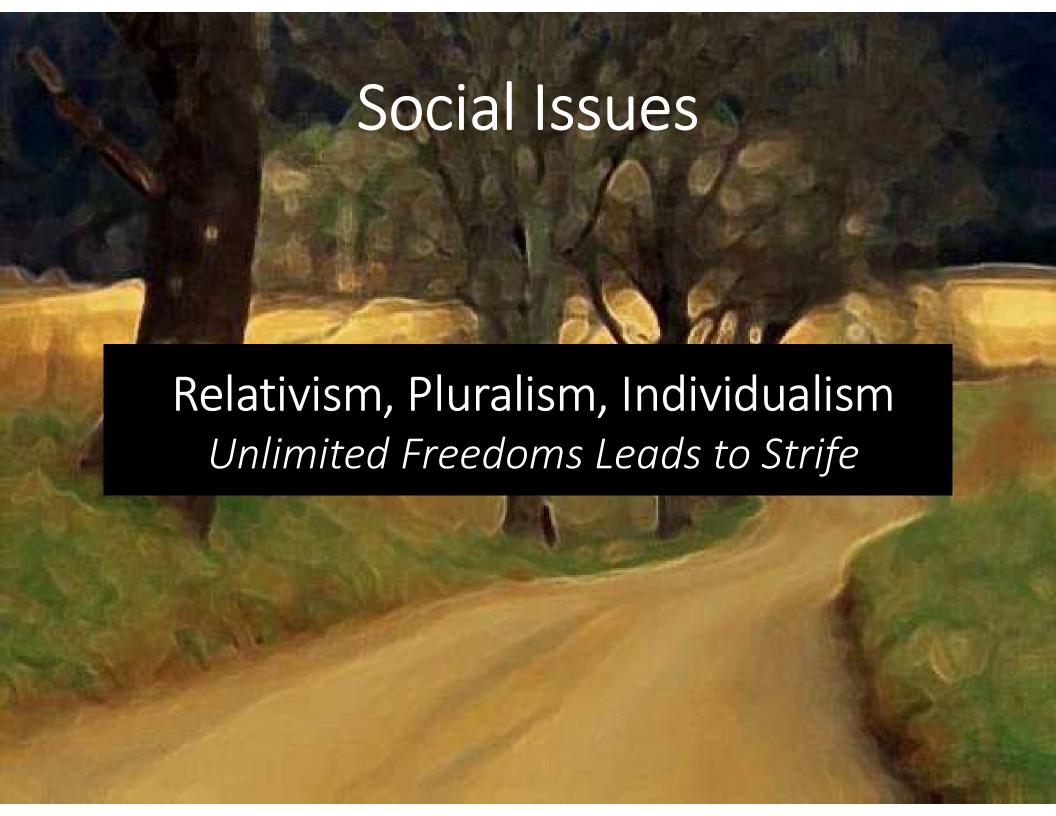
Heterosexual

Gift from God

Blessing, Enjoyment, Procreation

One Flesh Union

Intimacy of Body, Heart, Soul, & Mind



# Social Issues How do we respond?

We will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

<sup>15</sup> Instead, we will <u>speak the truth in love</u>, growing in every way more and more like Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-15 ((NLT)



