



# Discussion Questions

## CULTURAL APOLOGETICS

by Paul M. Gould

### Chapter 7: Addressing Barriers

1. J. Gresham Machen stated, “False ideas are the greatest obstacles to the reception of the gospel.” What are some false ideas we might encounter and need to respond to? (Not necessarily limited to those mentioned in the book.)
2. What examples of anti-intellectualism have you observed in the church? (Your local church or broadly)
3. The section “Fragmentation”<sup>\*</sup> discusses how a right perspective of the world can help us experience unity between meaning and pleasure. This entails having a posture toward culture that is not inherently negative. What are some challenges to keeping a positive posture toward culture, and how might we overcome them?
4. In “Unbaptized Imagination” Gould says we must recognize the secular practices and habits that are shaping us and that nothing, including technology, is neutral. He also says we must embrace the call of Christ to self-denial.
  - a. Are you generally aware of the formative power of technology when you use it, or did reading this section cause you to be more aware?
  - b. How might practicing self-denial lead to sinful attitudes? How can we guard against these attitudes?

(Q5-8) For each of the four External Barriers, which response did you find most helpful? Why?

5. Science disproves God (pp. 182-186)
  
6. God is not good (pp. 186-192)
  
7. Belief that Jesus is the one and only God is intolerant (pp. 192-194)
  
8. Christianity offers an archaic, repressive, and unloving ethic regarding sexuality, marriage, the poor, race, etc. (pp.195-198)

\* Note: watch this video starting at 9:12 for a comparative description of active and passive nihilism discussed on pp. 174-75, <https://youtu.be/mWnmC4PaHHs>