

# CULTURAL ROADBLOCKS TO CONVERSION

Philosophical Errors	Challenge to Conversion	Conversion
<p><b>- Empiricism</b> (<i>Scientism, materialism</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Underlying Truth: Searching for truth, trying to objectively determine reality.</i></li> <li>- <i>Error: Ignores metaphysics, applies itself outside its category, over reliance on the senses. Physical matter and demonstrable forces are the only relevant reality.</i></li> </ul> <p>? What is the world and what is its end?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>"Seeing is believing"</i></li> <li>- <i>Everything is knowable, God is only exists in the gaps</i></li> <li>- <i>Only repeatable phenomenon is real and objective.</i></li> <li>- <i>Love is simply a response to stimuli.</i></li> <li>- <i>Agnosticism</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faith (Heb 11:1, Romans 1)</li> <li>- Revelation (God's search for man)</li> <li>- Grace &amp; Sacramental reality (cf. Isaiah 55:8)</li> </ul>
<p><b>- Secular Humanism</b> (<i>individualism, communism</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Underlying Truth: The human being is our essential departure point to all understanding &amp; knowledge.</i></li> <li>- <i>Error: The human is both the means and the end of our existence.</i></li> </ul> <p>? Who is man and what is his end?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Distorted understanding of the individual and the community.</i></li> <li>- <i>"The individual is everything"</i></li> <li>- <i>"The community is everything"</i></li> <li>- <i>For ourselves not for one another</i></li> <li>- <i>Nothing is transcendent / Beauty is in eye of beholder</i></li> <li>- <i>Only for each other in as so much it serves ourselves.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providence (Matt 6, Psalm 137)</li> <li>- The relationship of the individual and the community. (cf. 1 Cor 12:26)</li> </ul>
<p><b>- Consumerism</b> (<i>utilitarianism, "materialistic"</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Underlying Truth: Finding value in God's creation, being good stewards of that which is ours. Finding personal fulfillment.</i></li> <li>- <i>Error: Value is based on utility not dignity, more is better, material fulfillment of senses at the expense of soul.</i></li> </ul> <p>? How then should I live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>"More is better"</i></li> <li>- <i>"Your value begins and ends with how useful you are to me"</i></li> <li>- <i>"Love things, use people."</i></li> <li>- <i>"True relationships are impossible"</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "My heart is restless until it rests in you" -St. Augustine</li> <li>- Treasures in heaven (cf. Mt 6:19)</li> <li>- Story of rich servant (cf. Matt 19:16)</li> <li>- Call to simplify and prioritize according to dignity not utility. (cf. Luke 12:6-7)</li> <li>- Real growth (cf. Phil 3:14-15)</li> </ul>
<p><b>- Relativism</b> (<i>Subjectivism, moral obscurity, situational ethics</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Underlying Truth: Finding union in the subjective experience with objective reality.</i></li> <li>- <i>Error: No objective reality, reality is subjective. Focus on subjectivity to the neglect of objectivity, divorced freedom from truth.</i></li> </ul> <p>? What is good, what is evil?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>"it might be true to you, but it is true to me"</i></li> <li>- <i>"no objective reality only subjective experience."</i></li> <li>- <i>"If it is true to you (subjective) Than it is true (objective)"</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moral certainty, revelation</li> <li>- Discernment (cf. Ps 119)</li> <li>- Freedom (cf. 8:31-32)</li> <li>- Choice (Dt. 30:19-20)</li> </ul>

