



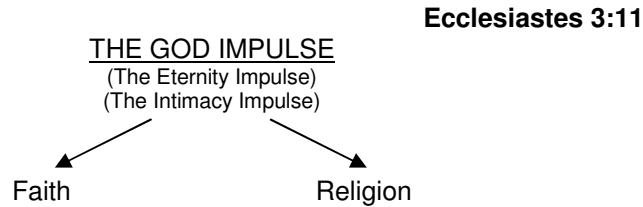
## jesus in dialogue with beautiful minds

- Part 1: *The Scientists*
- Part 2: *The Psychologists*

# Part 3: *The Sociologists*

- Part 4: *The Philosophers*

### INTRODUCTION – Choosing Relationship Over Religion



### Religion As Tribal Cohesive – Emile Durkheim

Romans 1:18-25

- *THE ROLE OF "TOTEMS"...*

All religion is the \_\_\_\_\_ of society.

- *RELIGION AS THE CHILD OF SOCIETY...*

- *RELIGION AS CULTURAL COHESIVE...*

Religion plays a crucial role in holding a society together by making the collective traits and values of the culture an \_\_\_\_\_ reality.

- *THE TOTEMIZATION OF JESUS...*

- *THE REVELATION OF JESUS VS. THE RELIGION OF JESUS...*

John 1:9; 10:9; John 11:25-27; 14:6

Mark 7:1-1

CASE STUDY#1 – Getting Dressed Up For Church...

Luke 12:35; Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:24; 6:11, 14-17; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Peter 5:5; Revelation 3:4-5; 19:7-8; Psalm 132:16; Isaiah 61:10; Zechariah 3:3-5  
1 Timothy 2:9-10; James 2:1-13; 1 Peter 3:3

CASE STUDY #2 – Sabbath Rest...

Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:27; John 5

### CONCLUSION – Your Own Personal Jesus

John 6:15; Matthew 16:23

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. Discuss the meaning and significance of this quote by Durkheim: *Western Christianity is no more than a religionizing of capitalist culture.*
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. In what ways do you think **Romans 1:25** describes our society today? (Also see the rest of the chapter for ideas.)
4. Durkheim says that religion is the projection of cultural traits and values onto a deity we then worship. For each of the following texts describe i) how the people involved seem to be projecting their own values onto Jesus and ii) how we might project the same thing today in Christian circles. a) **John 6:15**; b) **Matthew 3:12**; c) **Luke 9:51-55**; d) **John 9:1-3**; e) **Luke 7:36-39**; f) **Matthew 7:22**; g) **Matthew 16:21-25**; h) **Luke 9:28-33**; i) **Luke 23:34-35** j) **Matthew 20:20-28**; k) **Luke 20:16**; l) **Acts 8:9-24**; m) **1 Corinthians 6:15-20** (also see **Romans 6:1-2, 15**).

#### SO WHAT?...

5. In what ways do you think you might 'totemize' Christ, personally projecting your own ideas, ideals, and preferences onto Jesus? What changes could you make in your life this week to compensate? Pray for each other, that we might come to know and follow the Jesus of scriptural history, rather than the Jesus of our own creation.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 21 / 28, 2004



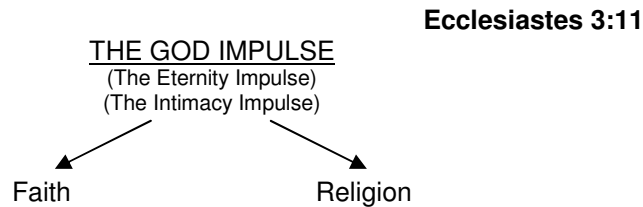
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