

Reformation, Inside & Outside

Perspectives on Reformation— Lessons from American Presbyterianism

*For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a
righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:
“The righteous will live by faith.”*

Romans 1:17

Perspectives for Choices

Divine Authority

The timeless truths, principles, commands, & promises of Scripture

What has God said to us?

GOD'S WORD

Where has God placed us?

The opportunities & limitations of our particular place & time, as ordered by God's providence

GOD'S WORLD

To what has God called us?

Our unique gifting & personal convictions that God has worked in us.

GOD'S PEOPLE

Divine Control

Divine Presence



Perspectives of God's Work in the Church

Doctrinal Purity

What is the correct teaching of Scripture
in every area of doctrine and life?

GOD'S WORD

How is God using the
church to "do good to
all" by being "salt and
light" in the culture?

GOD'S WORLD

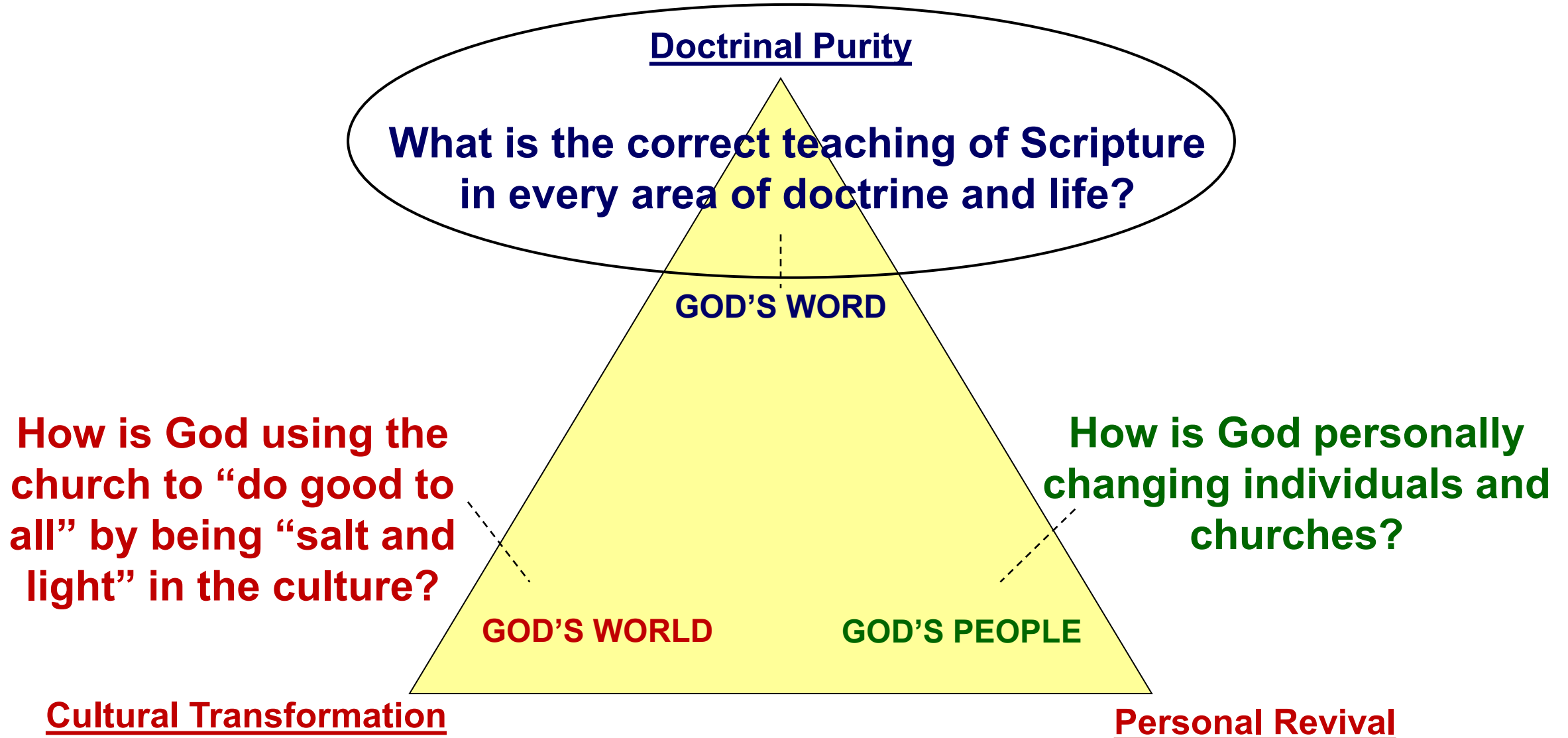
How is God personally
changing individuals and
churches?

GOD'S PEOPLE

Cultural Transformation

Personal Revival

Perspectives of God's Work in the Church



Doctrinal purity

*Watch your life and doctrine closely.
Persevere in them, because if you do, you
will save both yourself and your hearers.*

1 Tim. 4:16 NIV

*Therefore I testify to you this day that I am
innocent of the blood of all, for I did not
shrink from declaring to you the whole
counsel of God.*

Acts 20:26-27

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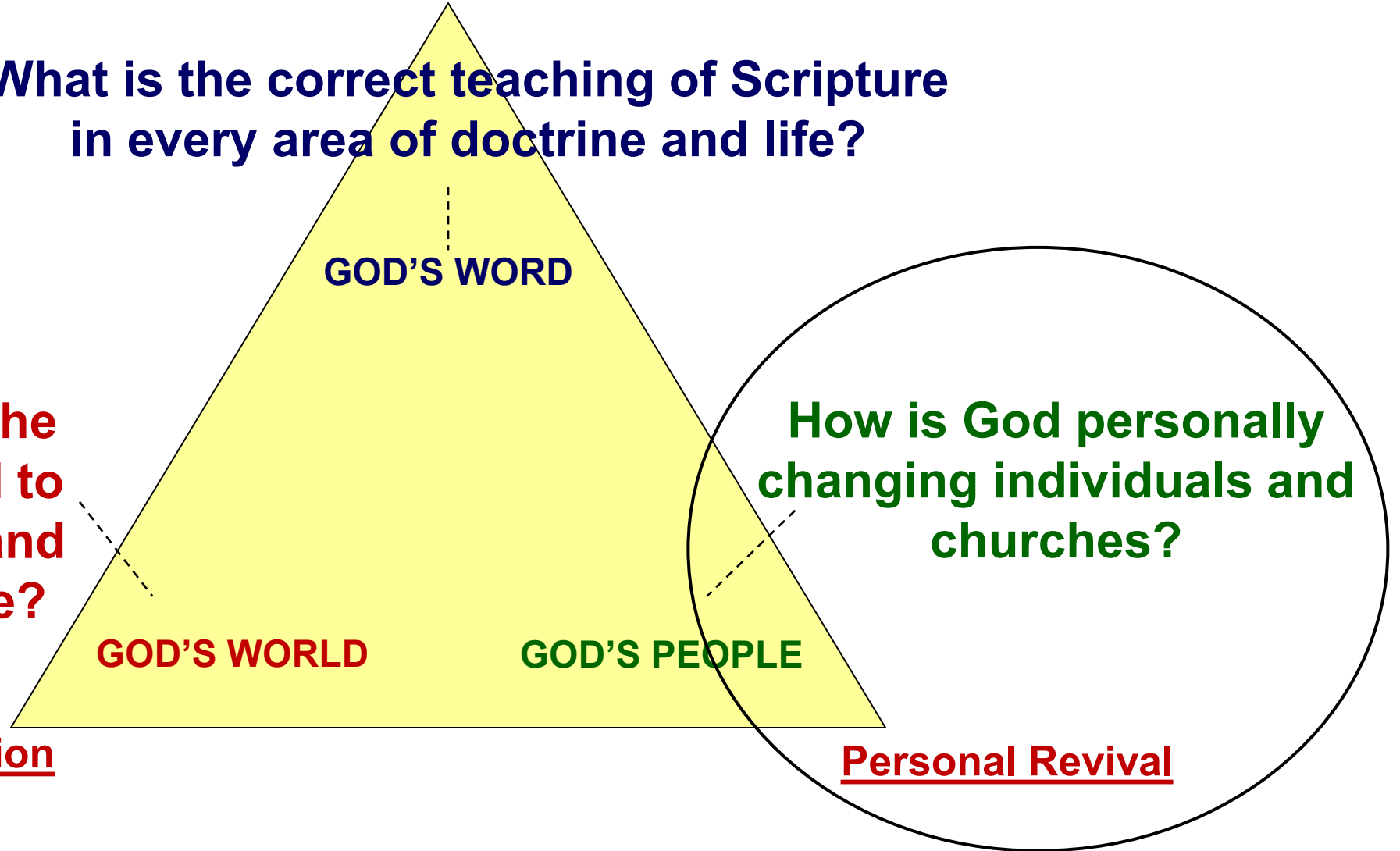
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Personal Revival



Personal revival

... You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thes. 1:8-9

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2 Cor. 13:5

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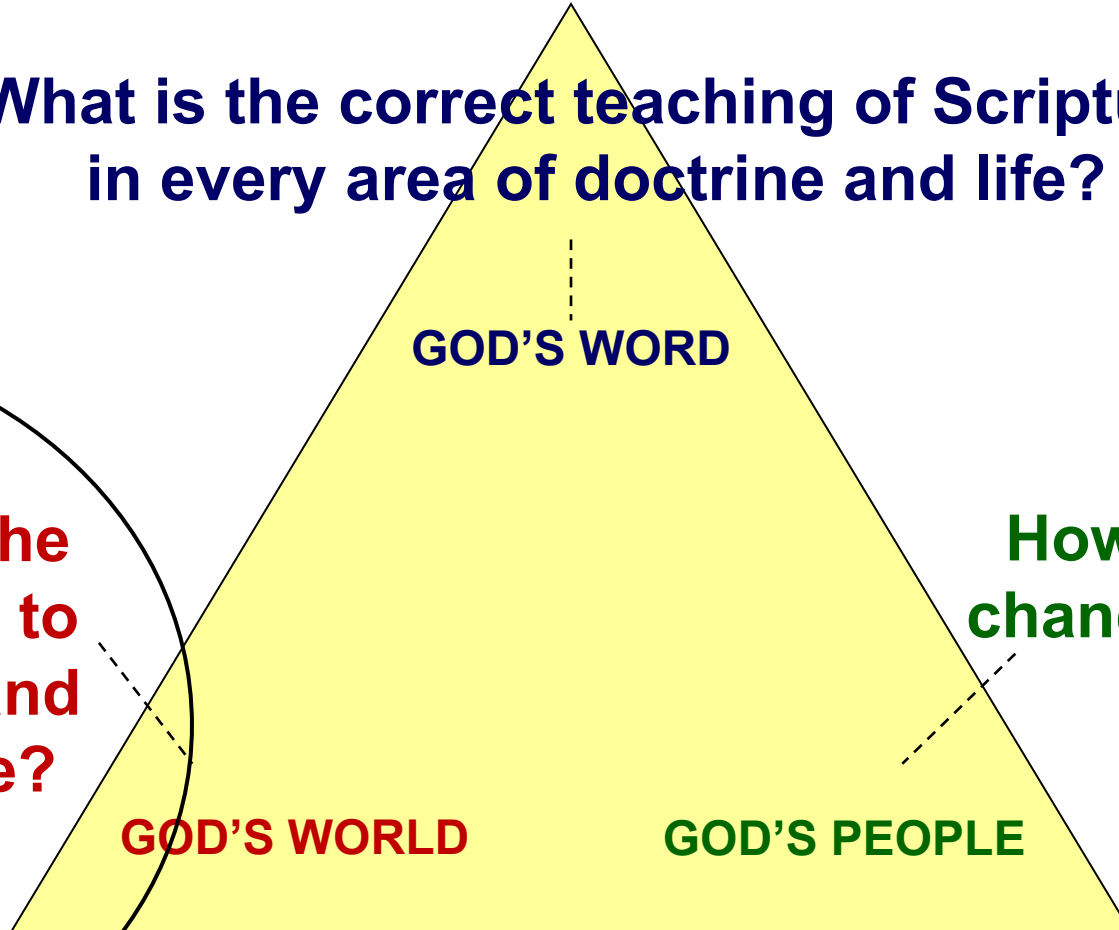
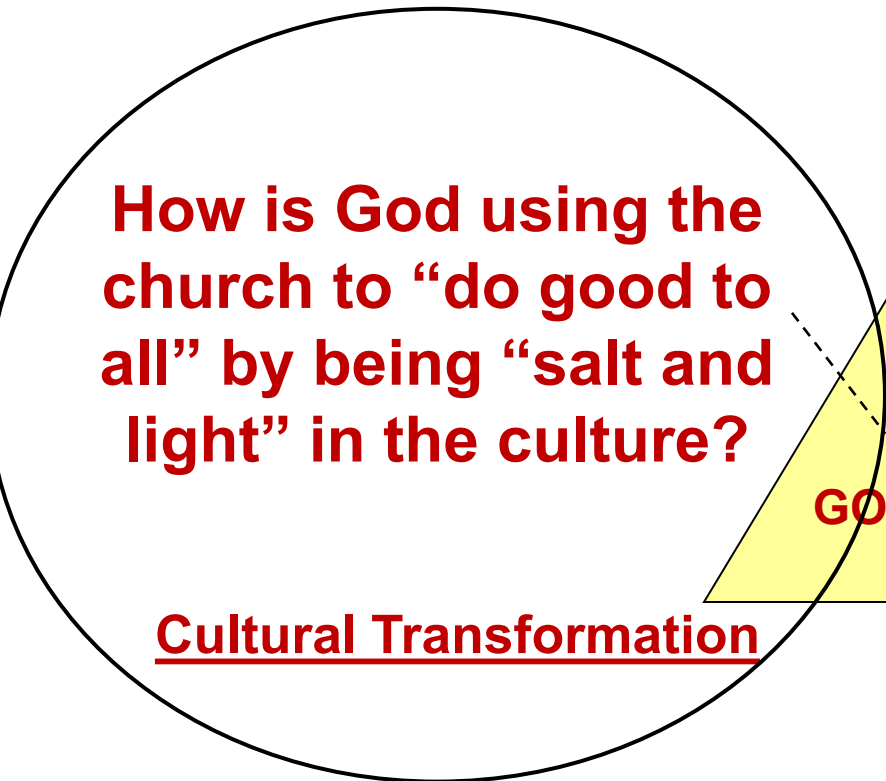
Cultural Transformation

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Cultural transformation

For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. Rom. 13:4

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. Prov. 8:15-16

Cultural transformation

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Tim. 2:1-2

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

Who does Paul write to? THE VISIBLE CHURCH

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours.

1 Cor. 1:2

How does he warn them?

REPENT OR YOU WILL BE LOST

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God 1 Cor. 6:9-10

How does he encourage them?
GIVES THE HOPE OF GOD'S GRACE

And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Cor. 6:11

How can he have such confidence?
THEIR IDENTITY IS WRAPPED UP
IN THE TRIUNE GOD

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

1 Cor. 6:19-20

Therefore, he can command them...

Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Cor. 6:20

“Old Light” vs. “New Light”
(or “Old Side”/ “New Side”)

The Great Awakening, 1730-1750

Reading:

<https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/on-controversy>

George Marsden, *Jonathan Edwards: A Life*. New Haven, Conn. (Yale University Press), 2003

Whatever it be that makes us trust in ourselves that we are comparatively wise or good, so as to treat those with contempt who do not subscribe to our doctrines, or follow our party, is a proof and fruit of a self-righteous spirit. Self-righteousness can feed upon doctrines as well as upon works; and a man may have the heart of a Pharisee, while his head is stored with orthodox notions of the unworthiness of the creature and the riches of free grace. Yea, I would add, the best of men are not wholly free from this leaven; and therefore are too apt to be pleased with such representations as hold up our adversaries to ridicule, and by consequence flatter our own superior judgments.

Controversies, for the most part, are so managed as to indulge rather than to repress his wrong disposition; and therefore, generally speaking, they are productive of little good. They provoke those whom they should convince, and puff up those whom they should edify. I hope your performance will savor of a spirit of true humility, and be a means of promoting it in others.

From John Newton's letter, "On Controversy" (public domain)