This is part of a book where Niebuhr discusses 5 basic ways in which Christians have historically seen their relationship to culture: (1) Christ against Culture, (2) Christ of Culture, (3) Christ above Culture, (4) Christ and Culture in Paradox, (5) Christ the Transformer of Culture.

Summary of the Christ against Culture position: Culture is basically evil and to be rejected. Christians are called to live separate from culture.

1. Things that speak in favor of this position
   - Was the position adopted by early Christians (see Tertullian below)
   - Seems to follow logically from Lordship of Christ (“on the surface . . . more logically consistent than the other positions”)
   - Its most radical adherents are attractive in their “single-heartedness and sincerity” despite difficulty of the required actions (see page 96); their actions match their words (page 97).

2. I John and this position
   - simple summary of I John: Love (God loves us, we should love God and each other; but do not love “the world”)
   - interpreted as call for strict loyalty to Christ (& Christians) without concern for the transitory culture (‘one another’ applies only to Christians in this view)

3. Tertullian as an example representing Christ again Culture
   - wrote several books presenting Christianity as a “way of life quite separate from culture”
   - T: sin resides chiefly in culture, not in nature
   - T: shun pagan religions, many occupations, politics, military service, the arts, Greek philosophy

4. Niebuhr finds this position necessary, but inadequate
   - Necessary
     - produced sincere followers (see above)
     - historically important (agent for preservation or transformation of culture)
     - is a “necessary element in every Christian life” (we do need to oppose and separate ourselves from some aspects of culture)
   - Inadequate
     - can’t really escape from culture, no matter how hard one tries; even if we isolate ourselves completely, we will form a new (and imperfect) culture among ourselves
     - Christ against Culture fails to “take account of the ‘meanwhile’” (page 101)
     - we live between Creation and Restoration
     - Christ against Culture fails to distinguish between relative rights and wrongs (at least overtly)

5. Final note by N: one should not gloat at difficulties of “radical Christians” when they have to deal with a “rejected, evil, and inescapable culture”.
   - Similar dilemmas will confront all Christians.
   - The radical Christian “has not solved the problem of Christ and Culture, but is only seeking a solution along a certain line.”