



September 29, 2004 ~~FRIDAY~~

**Western Culture** center in box not text

Pluralism both supports and is supported by the Western society in which we live and minister. At the heart of our culture are beliefs which promote diversity in lifestyles and religions. Possibly the most fundamental principle of Western culture is the belief in autonomy and the sovereignty of the individual. Personal taste and comfort are valued above the good of a society, because it is for the good of the individual that society exists. Tied to this is another key belief of our culture: tolerance. When individual freedom is treated as the highest good, truth and love must be subjected to its dictates. To maintain this extreme individualism, everyone's beliefs must be accepted as equally valid and anything which may interfere with one's self-interest must be resisted. "Religious beliefs are tolerated in the West - as private opinions or as aspects of culture. In schools children may be encouraged to accept religion either (if they are Western) as their own personally chosen value system or (if they are ethnically non-Western) as an aspect of their culture. A religion that makes truth claims, that claims to proclaim reality as it actually is, not just private values, is not welcome in the arena."

(quote from *Western Culture* by Tony Lane, an article in Eerdman's Handbook to The World's Religions)

justify paragraphs

→ is that a noun?

is western culture just an article, or a book too?

" " around West. Cult. and italicize Eerdman's.

**SeNIOr SpOtLIghT** bold

A few of Molly O'Connor's favorite things include Macy, her chocolate lab, and a well-worn, well-loved baby pillow. Although she often wrestles with deciding between sleeping-in and working-out, there is no debating that God has called her to her major in youth ministry. Along with her team at Far Hills Community Church, Molly ministers to Jr. High girls, giving all the glory of what's been done to God.

**SeNIOr SpOtLIghT**

In the future, when you're moseying through the bookstore, keep your eyes open for Emily Stokes' latest novel on the Christians within the inner-city. But until she gets to that, Emily keeps herself busy journaling, playing with a pet monkey named Stinky, and leading the AWANA program at Colonial Baptist Church. Her best memory from AWANA is the yearly carnival, where she gets a kick out of watching the kids and their families having fun.

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