

The dissertation deals with the theme of the theology of culture, with special reference to Christian ethics and its demands and expectations in the context of the current ecumenical scene. Its aim is an analytical description of various theological and moral levels of culture, such as its spiritual basis or relationship to the common (social) good. An introductory discourse entitled "The ABC of Culture" provides a more detailed view of those parts of the spiritual riches of culture that are given priority by individual theological schools and their representatives. The chapters on inculturation, the social dimension of society, and the place of Christian freedom in culture refer to the penetration of "academic theology" into the life of specific human communities. The second section of the dissertation consists of studies dealing with the intellectual approaches to the theme to be found in the areas of 1) Catholic theology – e.g. John Paul II, Jacques Maritain, Johan Huizinga, Joseph Ratzinger; 2) Eastern and Orthodox theology – Nikolai Berdyaev, Vladimir Solovyov, Ivan Alexandrovich Ilyin; and 3) Protestant theology – Albert Schweitzer, Paul Tillich, Emil Brunner and H. Richard Niebuhr.