values. These concepts and values threaten to destroy all absolutes in Western culture in the realms of reality, truth, and value; and to open the door widely for the development of an atheistic, materialistic, agnostic, and hedonistic culture. The proof of this is that <u>it is already happening!</u>

By "Western culture" is meant the culture of all those societies that have been heavily influenced by the basic principles of the Bible (what we have called Judaeo-Christian principles). This includes European societies, most of the societies of North and South America, a few societies in Africa and the Middle East, and those of Australia and New Zealand; but not the societies of Asia (with some notable exceptions, such as Korea). Thus the term "Western culture" seems appropriate, since this categorization of societies is into West and East (Occident and Orient). Taken together, the population of those societies dominated by Western culture numbers about 2.1 billion, whereas the population of those societies not dominated by Western culture numbers about 3 billion. This does not mean that those who claim religious affiliation with either Christianaity or Judaism number 2.1 billion worldwide; it simply means that the population of those societies that have been heavily influenced by the basic principles of the Bible number 2.1 billion. (Actually, those claiming affiliation with Christianity or Judaism total 1 billlion, 50 million worldwide; and those included in the category of Christianity includes Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant, as well as some other groups).

2. What are the biblical ("Judaeo-Christian") principles that have heavily influenced Western Culture?

Among others that could be mentioned, seven seem basic:

a. Belief in God -- a personal, supernatural Being who is the Creator, Savior, and Judge of the world

b. Belief in the reality of the material world -- a non-personal, natural system of finite thlings, dependent on and subject to God

c. Belief in human beings as rational, moral, and spiritual beings, distinct from other living things, yet also dependent on God

d. Belief in the reality of truth, and the possibility of knowing truth

e. Belief in absolute moral values, in an absolute distinction between moral good and moral evil

f. Belief in the values and norms of the Ten Commandments and in the moral teachings of Jesus Christ as embodiments of absolute moral values which are prescriptive standards of human behavior

g. Belief in the reality and immortality of the human soul, and in the direct relationship between present moral behavior alnd eternal destiny

3. What should Western Christians do in regard to their culture?