Notes on a theological statement in relation to mass mediated popular culture

First think to yourself about the following questions (these are simply a place to start, I’m sure they’ll evoke others for you):

How is God revealed?
What is the significance of worship?
What constitutes the experience of conversion?
What is faith?
How important is assent to a creed?
How does faith situate a person in the world?

Now think about how you would define what it is “to know” and how that definition shapes your understanding reality. How would you explain your faith to someone you’ve only just met, for instance? How would you explain your faith to someone who you’ve known a very long time? Would there be any difference?

Now think about how these two pieces – your theological convictions, and your understanding of how you come to know reality – shape your experiences within mass mediated popular culture. How do you make meaning in that context? Does mass mediated pop culture come into any of your answers to the questions I note above?

Finally, think about how your responses help you describe or even define the relationship between faith and culture, theology and culture, or church and culture (you don’t have to comment on all three, particularly if you find each has a distinctive important to you).

Now try to write out a statement that gets at the heart of what you’ve learned from working with these questions. Try to do it in 750 words or less. E-mail the statement to me by March 4th so that I can put it up on our class web site.