

1 Peter 3:15 be ready to give a defense for what you believe

Two kinds of Theology:

1. Conceptual Theology- thoughts about God and His kingdom

Example: rules for the baseball game -

2. Relational Theology - the practical outworking of truth in the life of a believer.

Example: methodology and skills for playing the baseball game

* Both are necessary to lay ahold of in life

Elephant Example:

The Disagreement as to the Description and Shape of the Elephant:

"The elephant was in a dark house: some Hindus had brought it for exhibition. In order to see it, many people were going, every one, into that darkness. As seeing it with the eye was impossible, each was feeling it in the dark with the palm of his hand.

The hand of one fell on its trunk: he said, 'This creature is like a water pipe.' The hand of another touched its ear: to him it appeared like a fan. Since another handled its leg, he said, 'I found the elephant shape to be like a pillar.' Another laid his hand on the back: he said, 'Truly this elephant was like a throne.'

Similarly, when anyone heard a description of the elephant, he understood it only in respect to the part he had touched."

* Thus there is a great need to see the whole elephant!

* Denominations tend to emphasize one part of the elephant

What is a World View?

Definition: a set of assumptions which we hold consciously or unconsciously about the basic make-up of our world. It is a collection of words and concepts that work together to provide a more or less coherent frame of reference for all our thought and action. To discover one's own world view is a significant step toward self-awareness, self-knowledge, and self-understanding.

Quote on Objectivity: Objectivity is an excuse from those who prefer to keep life and faith at an emotional arms distance. If you are not a believer, then claiming objectivity is a mask. If you are a believer, it will color every action, every thought, every feeling.

2--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

The Universe Next Door James Sire p. 18-19

"A world view is composed of a number of basic presuppositions, more or less self-consistent, generally unquestioned by each person, rarely, if ever, mentioned by his friends, and only brought to mind when challenged by a foreigner from another ideological universe.

A well-rounded world view includes basic answers to each of the following questions. (1) What is prime reality-- the really real? To this we might answer God, or the gods, or the material cosmos. (2) Who is man? To this we might answer a highly complicated electro-chemical machine whose complexity we do not understand, or a personal being created by God in his own image, or a sleeping god, and so forth. (3) What happens to man at death? Here we might reply that man experiences personal extinction, or transformation to a higher state, or departure to a shadowy existence on 'the other side'. (4) What is the basis of mortality? The character of God, the affirmation of men, the impetus toward cultural or physical survival, we might say, among other things. (5) What is the meaning of human history? To this we might answer to realize the purposes of God or the gods, to make a paradise on earth, to prepare a people for a life in community with a loving and holy God, and so forth.

Within various basic world views other issues often arise. For example: What is the nature of the external world? Who is in charge of this world-- God, or man, or man and God, or no one at all? Is man determined or is he free? How can we know and how can we know that we know? Is man alone the maker of values? Is God really good? Is God personal or impersonal? Or does he exist at all?

The fact is that we cannot avoid assuming some answers to such questions. We will adopt either one stance or another; refusing to adopt an explicit world view will turn out to be itself a world view or at least a philosophic position. In short, we are caught. So long as we live, we will live either the examined or the unexamined life. It is the assumption of this book that the former is better."

* A Framework to view all of life through

Do you learn truth at MSU?

Science- can man do anything by technology?

Engineering- using principles

Biology- the study of life

Mathematics

History - What is the meaning of it? Is it important?

* Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it.
Is it His-story?

Legal- Who makes the laws?

* What is the basis of law? Rule of the majority?

3--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

Education- Is it a good thing?
Does it make man good?

Family - traditional forms, how about homosexual or polygamy?

Child Development: spank or let the child be creative?

Medicine- can doctors do anything? Does God heal?
* Genetic engineering

Psychology- some truth there- Is man free or determined?

Media- is it bad?

Finances- is money bad?
* Does money make people bad?
* Is poverty = Godliness?

Ethics- does it matter, what is the value of man?
Abortion
Ecology
Dr. Death Jack Kavorkian

Sociology- poverty, war, hunger
* Is man environmentally determined or self determined?

Politics- voting
* does the majority make it right?

Entertainment-

Religions

4--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

De Vern Fromke in The Ultimate Intention, p. 22

"As the Psalmist suggests (Ps. 103:7), most people only observe the acts of God but never, like Moses, come to know the ways of God. Consequently there is much on the surface that seems confusing. This is because we have not discovered the ways in which the parts are integrated into the whole. Mark Fakkema suggests:

Underneath apparent antagonisms, philosophy holds that there is an inner coherence, making for a basic unity and integration of all things. We can say that philosophy is the endeavor to unite things in a universe of thought making for a unified rationale. Philosophy, in surveying the totality of life, seeks to integrate in one's thinking all things into a single pattern of thought. Christian philosophy is the romance of seeing all things as one whole with God as ULTIMATE.

Too often there has been an overemphasis on various aspects of truth, each of which plays its own important part. Some truths have almost neutralized their influence because we have ignored the greater whole of which they form a part.

It is also that each one of us is constantly growing. That is, as our minds are reaching out for more truth-- for some new facet of reality--which must be temporarily spotlighted. This throws the matrix from which the truth emerged back into the shadows. At this point we must be very careful. It will be our purpose throughout the sections of this book to spotlight various phases such as: the Father from whence all purposes begin, the purpose of creation, the destiny of man, the result of the Fall, the divine intention in the Cross, the purpose for Christ's incarnation, the reason for suffering, etc. But always we shall insist that the reader learn to see these aspects as related to the WHOLE-- to see the matrix out of which each is born."

* God created an intelligent universe, we must view it as that.

* This is what I'm seeking to build- A Biblical World View

THE BIBLICAL WORLD VIEW:

Definition: A system of thinking through which we see God as the ultimate person and being in the universe, and through obedience give Him the rightful place in our lives. It governs the way we think about ourselves, others, the natural world and ultimate reality.

The Closet Example:

Many college students just pile and throw things in their closets, and when it comes time to find something. . .

* The BWV is an attempt to put pegs and drawers in your mind to organize and give order to all teaching and ideas one receives.

* A framework through which we look to interpret our world, our circumstances and everything that happens to us

5--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

- * It takes time to develop

- * In order to live happily in reality, we must live by the rules that God has set down for our lives => why Bible was given

- * Hell is an ultimate fantasy where you create you own reality
"Manufacturer's Handbook" Example car maintenance

Warning: our security is in God Himself and not in doctrine
Example: Not getting defensive when sharing the Holy S.

Jeremiah 2:12-13 Man builds his own cisterns

- * There is an ultimate reality

- * Building the BWV takes much time and meditation, and a willingness to learn, Brick by brick

Proverbs 9:9 teach a wise man. . .

- * Most people don't think through their presuppositions

"I am convinced that for a person to be fully conscious intellectually he should not only be able to detect the world views of others but be aware of his own-- why it is his an why in the light of so many options he thinks it is true"

- * Learn to ask why

Acts 17:11 "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."

Communists - they control what people hear

John Hess predicted the Communist Turmoil with faxes & tv

TV in the West does the same

- * Jesus spoke with authority, not shallow words.

Matthew 7:28-29 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

6--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

Mark 12:28-31

Heart

Soul-emotions

Strength - do dishes, worship, etc.

Chariots of Fire: "When I run I feel His pleasure"

Mind- submit all thoughts to God

* Eat from the right tree, though--

Why Think? 5 reasons to live THE EXAMINED LIFE:

1. He commands it => obedience. He knows what is best for us!

Romans 12:2 meditate = use our minds

renewed mind = know His will

C.S. Lewis, Augustine, Pascal, F. Schaeffer- 22 books

Divine Order of Truth

Ephesians 4:17-24 Passivity is sin

:17 Unbelievers don't use their minds

* We should be leaders in thought

1 Peter 3:15 be ready to give a defense for what you believe

=> intellect alone won't win people to Christ--
only Holy Spirit can penetrate hearts

:18 We should be enlightened

:20 Learn => an ongoing process

:22 Deceit = selfishness, selfishness is stupid

Hosea 4:6 My people perish for lack of knowledge

Proverbs 8:36 "He who sins against Me injures himself." We ruin our ability to perceive truth.

Existentialism- experience things without thinking

James 4:17 to him who knows

John. 8:32 you shall know the truth

Luke 12:47-48 to him who knew his master's will

2. We're created to

God is an intelligent, rational, and reasonable being

Look at the creation. . . An editorial

Life. It is the most unique commodity in the universe, and inconceivably rare.

What is life? Some might answer with a catalog of all that life contains; others might identify the joys and sorrows of human existence. But the answer I seek is more fundamental, more profound.

Most of us are so completely ingested into the stream of life's pleasures and goals that we fail to pause and gaze upon its actual substance. We fail to esteem the glory found in this teardrop from the eye of God.

"Wait," someone interjects. "Perhaps there is life on other planets."

I ask you, What planets? For all the interesting possibilities we have been offered by science fiction, its imaginative authors' have done humanity a disservice.

They have convinced us that we are one of many civilizations in a universe brimming with alien societies. They have caused us to devalue the wondrous rarity of life in our own world.

And life is rare.

We imagined it could be found on Venus. But the temperature of Venus is 800 degrees, hot enough to melt lead. Venus' equatorial winds blow at a constant 220 mph.

We expected to find life on Mars. But Mars has almost no atmosphere, and its temperature drops to an unbelievably frigid minus 130 degrees at night.

Perhaps in the far reaches of space there are stars with planets and planets with life. But at this point, we only know that of the hundreds of thousands of stars nearest the earth, not one has even an orbiting planet, much less life itself!

Not until we journey 1,300 light years from Earth do we find another solar system. By analyzing radio signals from its ancient, collapsed pulsar -- a neutron star dubbed PSR1257+12 -- astronomers have identified two planets they theorize contain too many heavy elements to support life.

To understand how uncommon life is, imagine a hollow sphere with a diameter of *15,000 trillion miles*. The sphere is the current extent of our scientific exploration. At its center, by way of comparison, is an infinitesimally small mass, a mere bluish dot of land, water and air with a diameter less than 8,000 miles. Everywhere else in the sphere are millions of stars without planets, spinning in incomprehensible emptiness. The only place with verified vitality in that immense realm is Earth -- a pinpoint of life within the huge spherical void.

The fact is, we are starkly alone in a vacuum of deep darkness and unfathomable barrenness. Despite wishful thinking to me contrary, scientific probing of our universe has found life nowhere but here.

8--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

On Christmas Eve 1968, a unique opportunity was granted humanity. For the first time in history we were given a chance to step outside our world and look at life from the viewpoint of the universe. The event was the lunar voyage of the Apollo 8 crew.

Orbiting the moon, the astronauts gazed upon the earth and returned with amazing images on film. The following is NASA's account:

"First, they showed the half-earth viewed across a stark lunar landscape. Then, from the other unfogged window, they tracked the bleak surface of the moon.

" 'The vast loneliness is awe-inspiring, and it makes you realize just what you have back there on Earth,' said [astronaut James] Lovell. The pictures aroused great wonder, with an estimated half-billion people vicariously exploring what no man had ever seen before.

" 'For all the people on Earth,' said [astronaut William] Anders, 'the crew of Apollo 8 has a message we would like to send you.' He paused a moment and then began reading, 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.'

"After four verses of Genesis, Lovell took up the reading: 'And God called the light day, and the darkness he called night.'

"At the end of the eighth verse [commander Frank] Borman picked up the familiar words: 'And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of me waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.' "

And here we are. Alive on the good earth, summoned to the most exquisite opportunity in the universe: to experience life!

What will you do with your golden moment? Furrow your brow and struggle to graduate so you can make a living? Allow a misunderstanding to separate you from a loved one? Watch television? It has been said that this life is the childhood of our immortality. Will we step outside the pettiness of a shallow existence and follow Jesus Christ into our destiny? Or will we burrow deeper into our problems and forever miss our purpose for being? Christmas reminds us of God's entry into human history, giving us the promise of eternal life. We are not alone.

We are created to evaluate matters on the basis of truth and make intelligent choices

3. Because men suppress the truth in unrighteousness

Romans 1:18 It's not that truth can't be known but men refuse to acknowledge it and live by it

- * We once lived that way

- * Refusal to admit "I'm wrong" and change

- * People reject the gospel because of selfishness not because its irrational

4. Because people around us also suppress the truth so we must protect ourselves from being deceived.

Matthew 24:4-5 Jesus warned against being deceived

Revelation 13:3 no one asked, "What does this mean?"

9--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

* God expects us to evaluate and think-- Ephesians 4:14

* Passivity is an open door for demonic activity

ONLY THE DISHONEST FEAR THE TRUTH

5. The church has been divided by existentialism

Def. The idea that there are no absolutes and truth is what you experience. History is irrelevant, only "now" is important: Truth is subjective and relative

* Culturally we're taught not to think but to develop meaning on the basis of experience. Movies are more sensual today.

Drugs
Music
Sex

* We proclaim from a platform of truth
They can accept or reject but cannot alter it

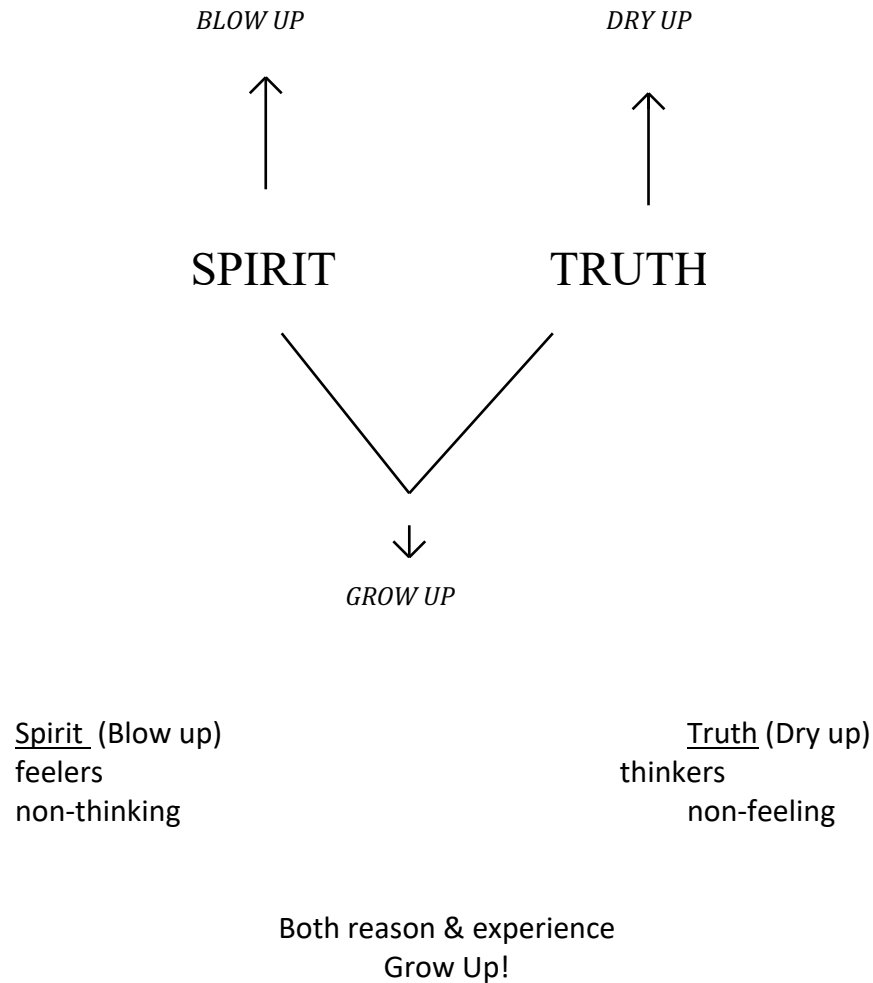
Jesus Revolution -existentialism and Christianity confused
Try Jesus- you are on trial before Jesus

Example: Debate with J. Bauer & irritation with absolutes

10--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

Chart #1

John 4:24



* How do I know Jesus was raised from the dead?

"1984"- result of existentialism in society

* Whittenberg door- Moody Institute, Emergencies--call
charismatic activity

PRESUPPOSITIONS: BUILDING BLOCKS OF A WORLD VIEW

Presuppositions - basic starting ideas, assumptions taken for granted: everyone has them

Postulate - to set forth an idea, to assume without proof as a basis for reasoning.

* Every human has a right to do this- respect his dignity

EXERCISE: Acts 28:1-10 What are the presuppositions of these people?

Christianity is true in that it is consistent with reality both:

A) Internally- consistent with itself- The teacher is always right, If wrong, see rule #1.

B) Externally- consistent with the universe and reality

* You can follow anyone's postulates to their logical end and if they are willing to be honest you can show them where it breaks down with reality.

* Choosing a room to be in , then staying in that room

Why are they important? It helps us get quickly to the root of the questions being asked, so we can answer the right question. Deal with basic presuppositions and you will save much time.

How Do We Get Our Presuppositions?

1. By conclusion- what we are taught

Example: Taught the system of evolution and that infers that there is no God or supernatural = naturalism, religion- no miracles talked about.

2. By attitude of your parents

You can't trust people

All black people are lazy

All Indians are drunks

Money does not grow on trees

Religious views

3. By Direct teaching- history, English, Science

* TV

Solution: Learn to have Biblical Presuppositions

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Example: Chart #2 EVOLUTIONARY WORLD VIEW

Presupposition

Naturalism- closed system

Natural Causes

No supernatural possible

Matter is eternal

Difficulty in explaining the
of reason

Ask: a tree falls in the forest

Conclusion:

It must be by natural causes

Planetarium- the rebirth of
the universe

Presupposition

Supernaturalism- open system

Natural Causes

Supernatural possible

Matter is created

Prayer can invoke super

Conclusion:

It may be by natural
causes or it may be by
supernatural causes

Joshua did stop the sun

Miracles: Jesus did them

The Missing Day- by
Howard Hill

World View Questions:

1. What is God like and what is His nature and character?
2. What is the nature of the material universe?
3. Who is man?

13--THEOLOGY II LECTURE #1 (THEO_2\1BIBWVIEW.doc)

4. What happens to man at death?
5. What is the basis of ethics and morality?
6. What is the meaning of human history?

PRACTICAL STEPS IN USING PRESUPPOSITIONS

1. Ask people to be objective to their presuppositions and follow them to their logical conclusions. You pick your room in the building and force them to live with the consequences

* Everyone is prejudiced to some degree - but try to stay objective

2. Stay in one system while discussing it- Don't bounce around

* You can only look at the evidence, not absolutely prove anything
Evolution vs. Creationism- which system best fits the evidence?

3. Check for internal and external inconsistencies

4. Minister in the right spirit- value the person made in God's image

bitterness- forgiveness

harshness- kindness

unbelief- faith

violence- self-control

fear- love

manipulation- servanthood

hostility- care

pride- humility