

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 13

The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen
(Excerpted from the GoLife100 course)

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON presuppositional thinking, the foundation of all worldview and philosophy. **THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE** without an understanding of presuppositional thinking, it is impossible to have a well-thought-out worldview.

CASE STUDY:

You have the opportunity at your church to teach a lesson in a class for new believers. During the lesson, a student states he doesn't think God cares what we believe, as long as we love Him.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What do you feel is at the root of a statement like this? Why is what we believe important to God?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you explain that your heart determines what you believe as much as it determines what you love?

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I. The mind justifies what the heart has chosen:

- A. John 3:19-21: *This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.*
1. A heart toward self.
 2. A heart toward God.
- B. Each heart has an agenda to reinforce its own position.

Truth is an affair of the heart more than an affair of the head.

Define a Term:

CULTURE: *The application of labour or other means to improve good qualities in, or growth; as the culture of the mind; the culture of virtue. (Webster's 1828)*

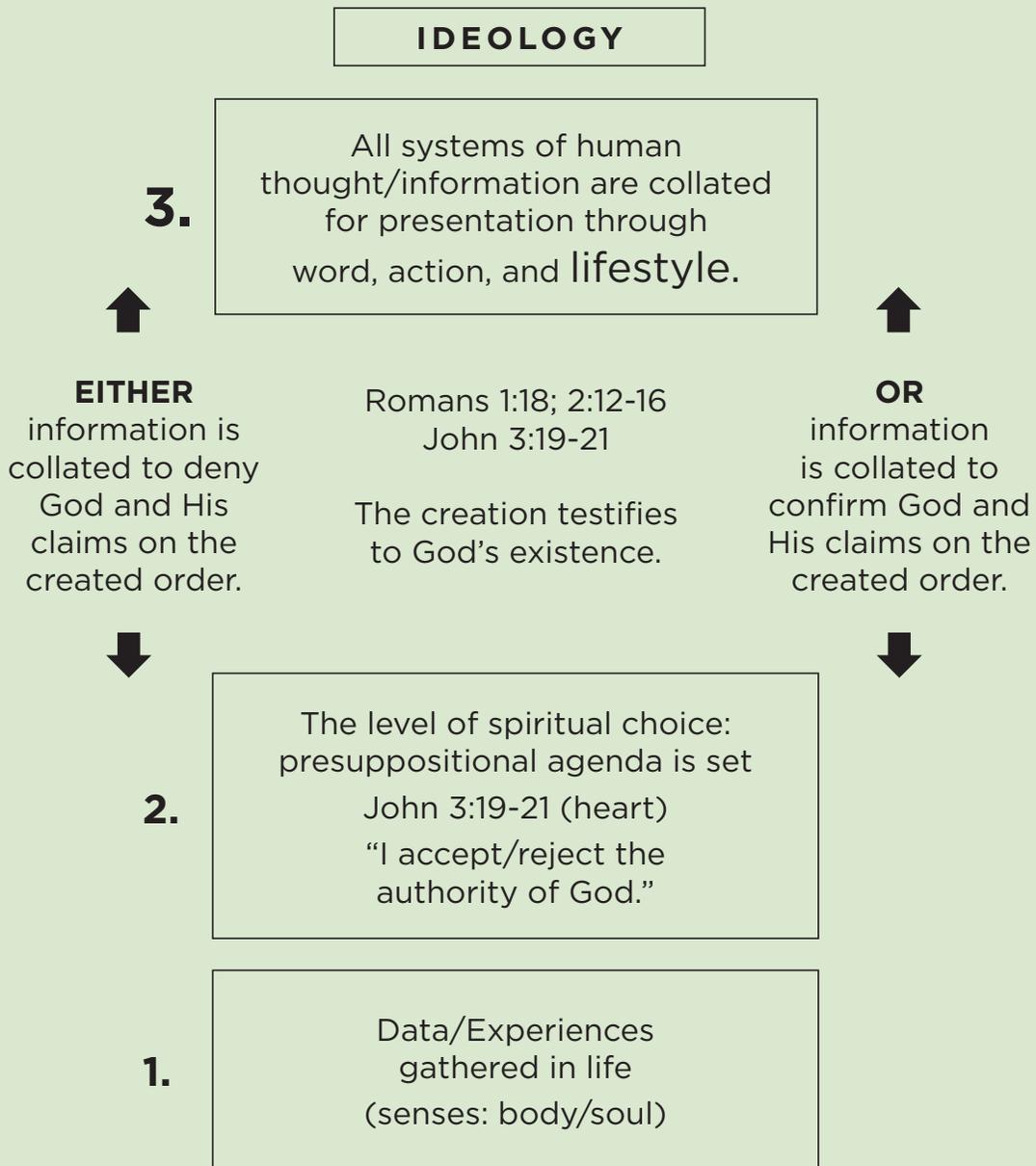
II. PRESUPPOSITIONS are the spiritual (or heart) agendas, conscious or unconscious, by which man orders his assumptions about himself and his environment:

- A. All human studies and classifications of knowledge are based on assumptions. These assumptions are called presuppositions.
- B. Your presuppositions determine four things:
1. How you gather information.
 2. How information is analyzed.
 3. How information is presented.
 4. How you want the information used.
- C. All modern culture and ideologies are built on presuppositions.
- D. All clear thinking is based on identifying the presuppositions of thought which are applicable.

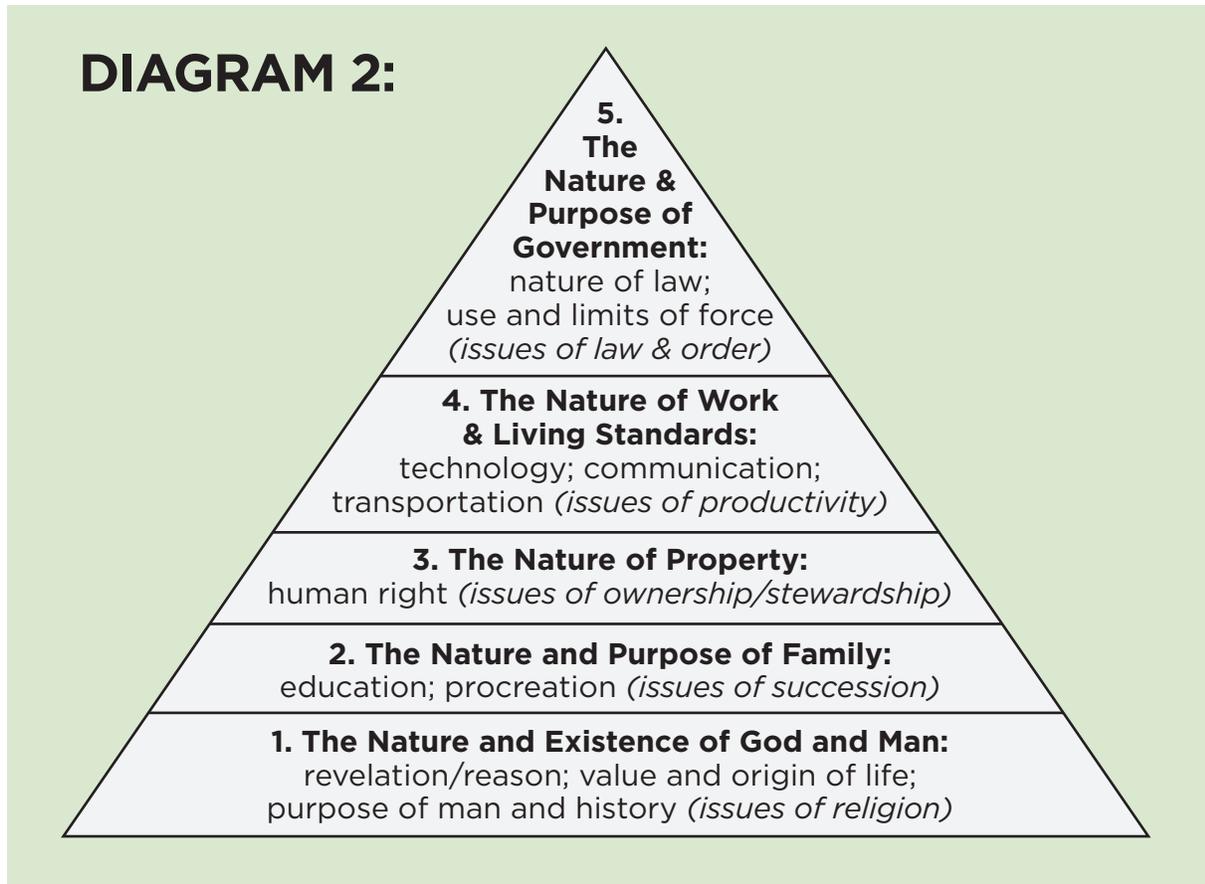
The purpose of my knowledge is to serve God, to worship Him, and to know Him.

III. Diagram One: Ideology:

DIAGRAM 1:



I. Diagram Two: The Five Basic Building Blocks of Man's Reality:



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II. Diagram 3: Examples of Presuppositional Agendas:

DIAGRAM 3:

Examples of presuppositional agendas:

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>PRESUPPOSITION</u>
1. Origin of Life	No God. All information is gathered and forced through the filter of randomness and natural selection, or through another filter.
2. Sexual Freedom	No God. All moral decisions are based on hope of science “freeing” us from the natural consequences of disease and pregnancy.
3. Human History	No God. Human history has no meaning beyond the gradual enlightened development of man as he discovers himself through humanistic education and scientific technology.

III. Diagram 4: The Two Trees in the Garden:

DIAGRAM 4:

The Two Trees in the Garden

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

INDEPENDENCE:

*I will experience reality independent of God.
(Humanism)*

I will evaluate for myself what to do with my life.

*I will order my "knowledge" so as to
justify my choices.*

The Tree of Life

DEPENDENCE:

*I will submit my life and learning experiences
to the One who made me.*

I will not evaluate God, but rather trust Him.

*I will order my knowledge by His revealed will
and trust Him relationally to bring me into
His fullest fellowship.*

Memory Verse:

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come into the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

—John 3:18-21 (NKJV)

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Homework:

- 1. In your own words, explain what a presupposition is and give an example.**
- 2. What non-Christian group of people are you aware of who know what they believe at a presuppositional level and are very conscious of spreading their worldview?**
- 3. Why are people fearful of wrestling with issues at a presuppositional level?**
- 4. List the five building blocks of man's reality and next to each one, place a current event or issue which relates to it.**

Listening Test:

1. **There is a difference between your brain and your mind.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. **People who worship reason and truth have their mind as the source of their agenda.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Your _____ determine(s) how you gather, analyze, present and use information.**
 - a. will
 - b. heart
 - c. presuppositions

4. **Your first private property is _____**
 - a. your savings
 - b. your conscience
 - c. home ownership