

GoBusiness100 | Lesson 14

The Three “Root” Presuppositions:
The Nature of God, Man, and Truth
(Excerpted from the GoLife100 course)

BY ADAM PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON why learning to think presuppositionally is such a powerful tool. Specifically, it will introduce the importance of our presuppositions about the nature of God, man, and truth.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE if we are going to become those who can actively and effectively work with the Holy Spirit to impact lives and situations, the ability to discern and address issues at a heart level is essential.

CASE STUDY:

You're talking with a friend who is struggling with the “tolerance and sensitivity training” in which she is required to participate at work. “I know that much of what they are teaching is really important, however, everything about the way they are presenting the material and why they are making such a big emphasis on this feels wrong to me.”

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

If you were to speculate, why do you think your friend feels uncomfortable with this training? What advice or perspective might you share regarding this situation?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What “foundation” is the exaltation of tolerance built upon?

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I. The importance of learning to think at a presuppositional level.

II. Matthew 7:24-27:

- A. Everybody builds a house; the decision is what you will build your house on.
- B. Consequences reveal the values of differing worldviews.

III. The ability to get to the heart foundation should be our goal in using presuppositional thinking:

- A. Convincing takes place at the head level and cannot produce lasting change.
- B. Conviction takes place at the heart level and paves the way for genuine transformation.
- C. The role of the Holy Spirit in bringing conviction (John 16:8-15).
- D. We must learn how to work with the Holy Spirit in the process of conviction.

**If you can get
someone's
heart, you can
make a path
for the Holy
Spirit to work.**

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Define a Term:

CONVICTION *The act of convincing of sin or sinfulness; the state of being convinced or convicted by conscience; the state of being sensible of guilt; the act of convincing of error; confutation; the act of compelling one to acknowledge his error, or the truth of what is alleged. (Webster's 1828)*

IV. Examples of presuppositional thinking from the editorial section of the newspaper.

V. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of God:

- A. Does God exist? (yes or no)
- B. What is the nature of God? (many or one, involved or removed, man-focused or God-focused, good, merciful, revealer, shares work with man, etc.)

VI. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of man:

- A. From where does man get his value? (God, himself, role in the community)
- B. What is the basic nature of man? (good or fallen)

C. What are the components of man? (spirit, mind, body)

VII. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of truth:

- A. Is truth objective or subjective?
- B. Is truth knowable or unknowable?
- C. Is truth conceptual or relational?
- D. What is epistemology?

We need to learn how to ask the questions that help us address the underlying assumptions.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

—Matthew 7:24-25 (NKJV)

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Homework:

- 1. Why is our culture so at war with consequences?**
- 2. Why do you suppose the majority of Christians have not been taught how to think presuppositionally?**
- 3. In your own words, explain the difference between convincing and conviction.**
- 4. Pick a current event or issue in the news and identify one of the important presuppositions that is involved.**

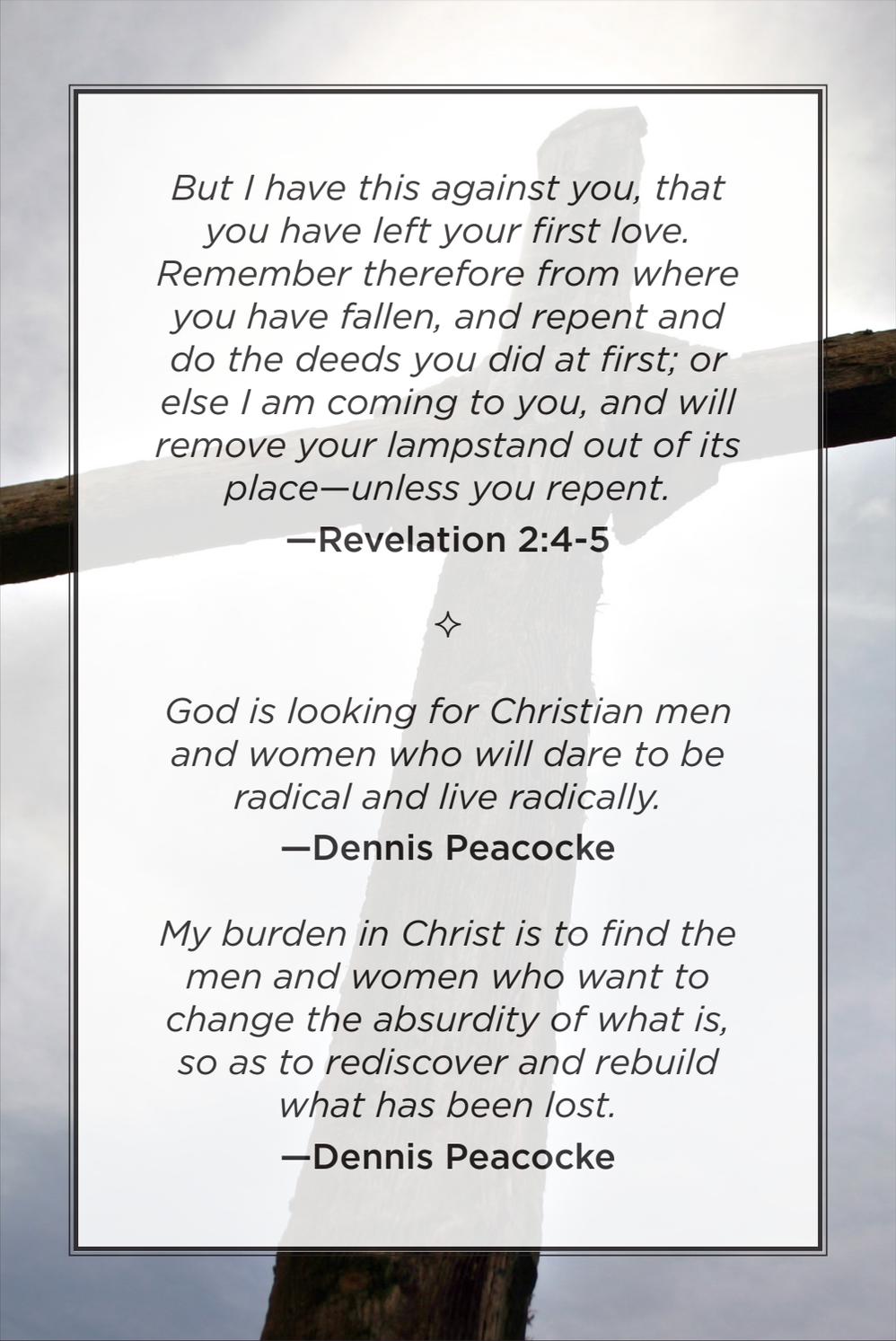
Listening Test:

1. **Most people are very aware of their presuppositions.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. **In our current culture, many of the most pressing issues relate to our presuppositions about the nature of man.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **_____ show the values of differing worldviews.**
 - a. Social classes
 - b. Philosophies
 - c. Consequences

4. **_____ takes place at the heart level.**
 - a. Discipline
 - b. Determination
 - c. Conviction



*But I have this against you, that
you have left your first love.
Remember therefore from where
you have fallen, and repent and
do the deeds you did at first; or
else I am coming to you, and will
remove your lampstand out of its
place—unless you repent.*

—Revelation 2:4-5



*God is looking for Christian men
and women who will dare to be
radical and live radically.*

—Dennis Peacocke

*My burden in Christ is to find the
men and women who want to
change the absurdity of what is,
so as to rediscover and rebuild
what has been lost.*

—Dennis Peacocke