



School of Strategic Living

GoLife100 Student Manual





GoLife100 Student Manual

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Building a Christian Worldview: Becoming a Prophetic Voice to Your Culture

WELCOME TO GOLIFE100, the first year of the School of Strategic Living! We are dedicated to training people to be influential for the Kingdom of God by equipping them to think from a Christian worldview, developing a strategic lifestyle, functioning effectively in leadership, and embracing generational thinking. This first year of the course focuses primarily upon building a Christian worldview.

A Christian worldview perceives all reality through the light of the revelation of God. It holds the Bible as our primary source for determining what is true and how to apply this truth to our lives. The process of applying the truth can be difficult if we do not know how to discern biblical principles and relate them to our life and culture, especially in instances the Bible does not specifically address. Many Christians are unaware of how to identify where to find the necessary information in the Bible and how to apply it. In the absence of a strongly held biblical perspective, we are at risk of taking on the unbiblical views of the culture around us, thus becoming products of the culture and its perspectives. Conversely, those who have a strongly held biblical perspective are able to function as prophetic voices to the culture by speaking from God's perspective.

In this first year, you will learn how to build a solid and clearly understood Christian worldview so that you may become equipped as a prophetic voice to the culture. We believe the fruit of this will be people who can be used by God to build His Kingdom on the earth.

Isaiah 58:12 says, "Those from among you shall build up the waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in." We believe this is a prophetic call to the Church today. God desires that we rebuild the wall of His culture. To do this, we must be equipped with a Christian worldview that enables us to speak the truths of God to the world around us.

With this in mind, we have titled the GoLife100 curriculum, *Building a Christian Worldview: Becoming a Prophetic Voice to Your Culture*. The teachings and outlines have been linked together by this theme so that learning is as integrated and applicable as possible. Discovery, teaching, and application components are incorporated into each lesson.

DISCOVERY: Each lesson begins with the intention of bringing you to a place where you see afresh the importance of the topic you will be studying and to challenge you to see how well you can apply what you already know about the subject. We hope you will approach these truths in a personal and relational way, focusing on what you want to learn rather than on what you already know.

TEACHING: The teachings are designed to provide truth in a clear and relevant way. In order to become a prophetic voice to our culture, we must first see the truth of God's perspective reigning in our own hearts and lives. To truly benefit from these teachings, we must be willing to receive the truth openly, even when it means letting go of perspectives and beliefs that we hold dearly, but that are contrary to the truth of God's Word.

APPLICATION: The assignments are designed to give you the opportunity to apply some of what you have learned and to measure your comprehension and mastery of the truths that have been presented. This is, of course, just the first fruits of how we hope and expect you will implement and incarnate the truths you have learned in each lesson.

We hope that every aspect of this course will be used mightily by God to help you build a strong Christian worldview and become a prophetic voice to your culture for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

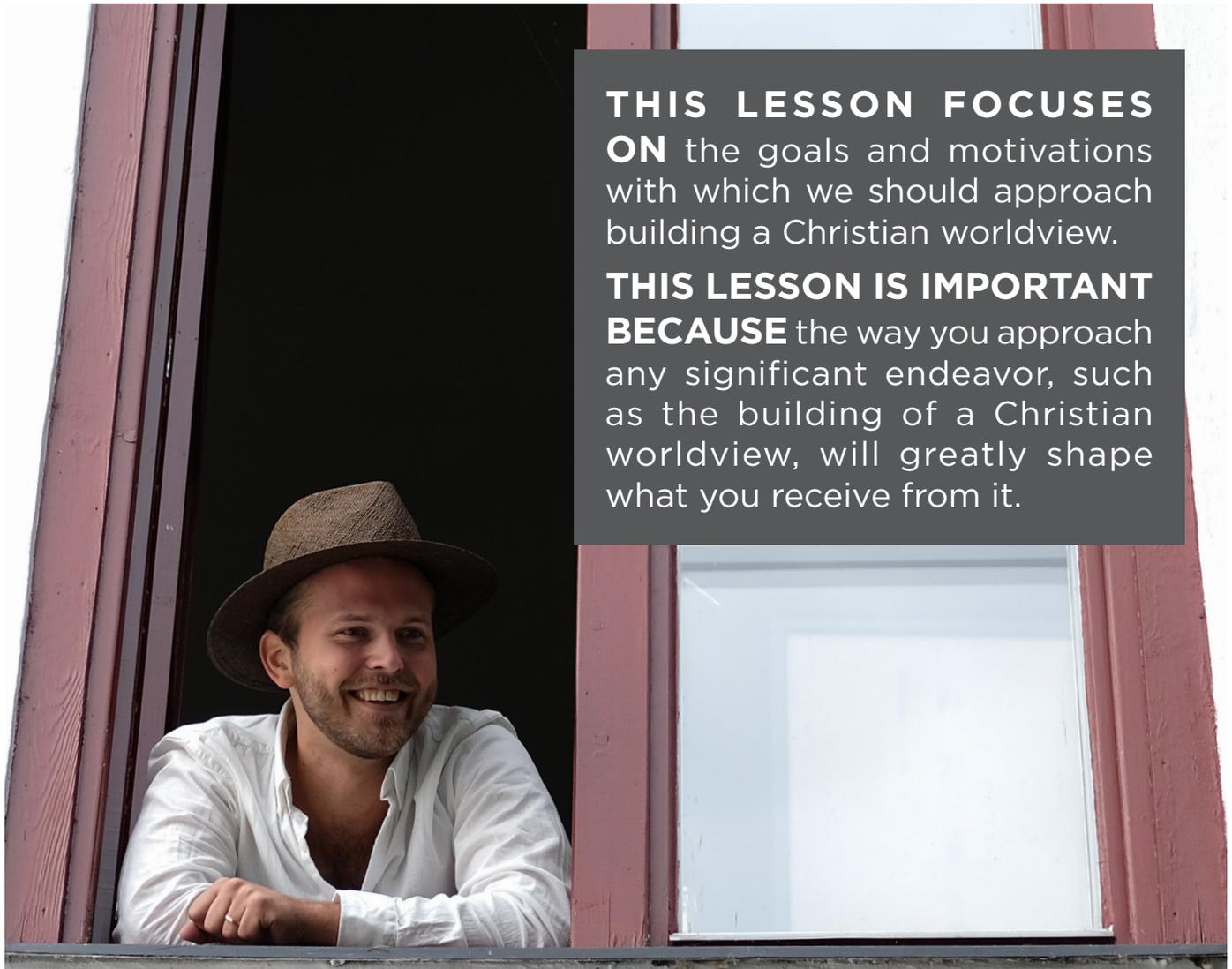
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GoLife100 | Lesson 9

Embracing a New Perspective of Christian Worldview



BY ADAM PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the goals and motivations with which we should approach building a Christian worldview.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE the way you approach any significant endeavor, such as the building of a Christian worldview, will greatly shape what you receive from it.

CASE STUDY:

In discussing your faith with a friend, she challenges your belief in the Bible as an authority in the way we should live. "The Bible is so irrelevant to modern life. How can I possibly look to it to guide me? Tell me, what does the Bible have to say about the internet?"

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

Think about how you would answer your friend's question. What are some areas of modern life that you wonder if the Bible addresses?

MAKE YOUR CASE:
Is knowing what the Bible says about the internet important? Why?

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Embracing a New Perspective of Christian Worldview

BY ADAM PEACOCKE

I. Developing the ability to use our Christian worldview.

II. FOUR “HANDLES” to help you grab hold of a Christian worldview:

- A. HANDLE #1: Understanding what we believe and why we believe it.
 - 1. There is a great need in the Body of Christ for learning what we are to believe as Christians.
 - 2. Learning what to believe is good, but it is insufficient without an understanding of why we believe it.
- B. HANDLE #2: Living by design rather than by default.
- C. HANDLE #3: Becoming a prophetic voice to your culture rather than a product of your culture.
- D. HANDLE #4: Adding weapons to your witness.

Define a Term:

DESIGN: Purpose; intention; aim; implying a scheme or plan in the mind. (Webster's 1828)

III. The example of David and Goliath ([1 Samuel 17:4-51](#)):

- A. [Verses 4-11](#) and [20-30](#): David was looking at the situation with Goliath through different lenses than the rest of the Israelites because of what he believed.
- B. [Verses 31-40](#): David was ready for a confrontation with Goliath because he had been living his life by design.
- C. [Verses 31-40](#): David was bold in sharing his faith, thus he became a prophetic voice to the people of Israel.
- D. [Verses 41-51](#): David acted as a weapon for God against Goliath...
 - 1. As a witness to the Philistines and surrounding nations that there is a God in Israel.
 - 2. As a testimony to Israel that God does not deliver by sword or spear but that the battle is the Lord's.

**Everyone
either lives
by design or
by default.**

IV. Curriculum Overview: The lessons are divided into three main topical sections:

- A. Life as Discovery: Growing in faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love so that you can become a prophetic voice to your generation.
 - B. Teachings focused on understanding worldview and how to develop it intentionally.
 - C. Teachings focused on the foundation and motivation of an effective Christian life.
-

Memory Verse:

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ’s, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ’s, even so we are Christ’s.”

—[2 Corinthians 10:4-7](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 9

Embracing a New Perspective of Christian Worldview

BY ADAM PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. Why is “knowing” what you believe not sufficient for building a strong Christian worldview?
2. What is an area of your life where you feel you are living by design?
3. What is a situation or issue where you would like to become a prophetic voice to our culture? What is the different perspective you want to bring?
4. What is an area where you have found yourself looking through the lenses of the culture around you?

Listening Test:

1. You do not have a worldview until you consciously choose what you believe.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Big words are a waste of time to learn unless you want to impress people.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Everybody either lives by design or by _____.
 - a. faith
 - b. default
 - c. fate

GoLife100 | Lesson 10

Life As Discovery: Add to Your Faith Virtue

BY DUDLEY HALL



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON

the foundations of faith and virtue in a believer's life which allow us to stand in integrity as we take our place as a prophetic voice to our culture.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT

BECAUSE without the right foundation in God, all that we know and all that we intend to accomplish will be fruitless or even destructive, and we will be ineffective in fulfilling God's purposes for us.

CASE STUDY:

You notice a friend at church who is looking disturbed. You go and ask her how she is doing. She responds by sharing with you her frustration with a family situation and explains, "I know that if I had more faith, I would not have to deal with problems like this."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you say or do to help your friend? What about her perspective is going to set her up to find herself in this situation?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What role do problems play in helping us "add" experientially to what God has given us potentially?

GoLife100 | Lesson 10

Life As Discovery: Add to Your Faith Virtue

BY DUDLEY HALL

I. [2 Peter 1:1-11](#)

- A. We are recipients of divine life by virtue of God's grace.
- B. We enter divine life through personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- C. We already have everything that pertains to life and godliness.
- D. We "add" experientially what has been given to us and is already ours potentially.

II. Rewards for "adding" and penalties for ignoring:

- A. Fascinating vs. Boring
- B. Fruitful vs. Barren
- C. Farsighted vs. Blind
- D. Free vs. Bound
- E. Diligently "adding" proves your election and establishes Kingdom privileges.

Define a Term:

PROMISE: *To make a declaration to another, which binds the promisor in honor, conscience or law, to do or forbear some act. (Webster's 1828)*

III. "Add" to your faith.

- A. Faith is the foundation for shared divine life that produces growth in us and glory for God.
 - 1. [Matthew 5:16](#): *Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*
 - 2. [Joshua 2](#): The faith testimony of Rahab.
- B. The ingredients to faith living are:
 - 1. Problem
 - 2. Provision
 - 3. Promise
- C. A promise is no good without confidence in the one who makes the promise.
 - 1. [Galatians 3:13-29](#)
 - 2. [Romans 4:18-21](#)

**Anything
that is
not doing
what it was
designed to
do is bored.**

IV. Add virtue to your faith.

- A. Virtue is internal purity or integrity.
- B. All human transformation happens from the inside to the outside ([Colossians 3:1-17](#)).
 - 1. Transformation begins with what you choose to see.
 - 2. We must see ourselves as in Christ, seated in authority and a place of favor.
 - 3. We must see ourselves as chosen, holy, and beloved.
- C. When our heart, head, mind, and body are aligned with eternal truth, virtue results.

**Without
virtue in
your life
knowledge
will corrupt
you.**

Memory Verse:

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

—[2 Peter 1:2-4](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 10

Life As Discovery: Add to Your Faith Virtue

BY DUDLEY HALL

Homework:

1. What does this lesson have to do with building a Christian worldview?
2. Give an example of a particular promise which you are standing on in God.
3. In your own words, explain what Dudley meant when he stated that problems are an essential part of God's plan.
4. How do you see yourself in Christ?

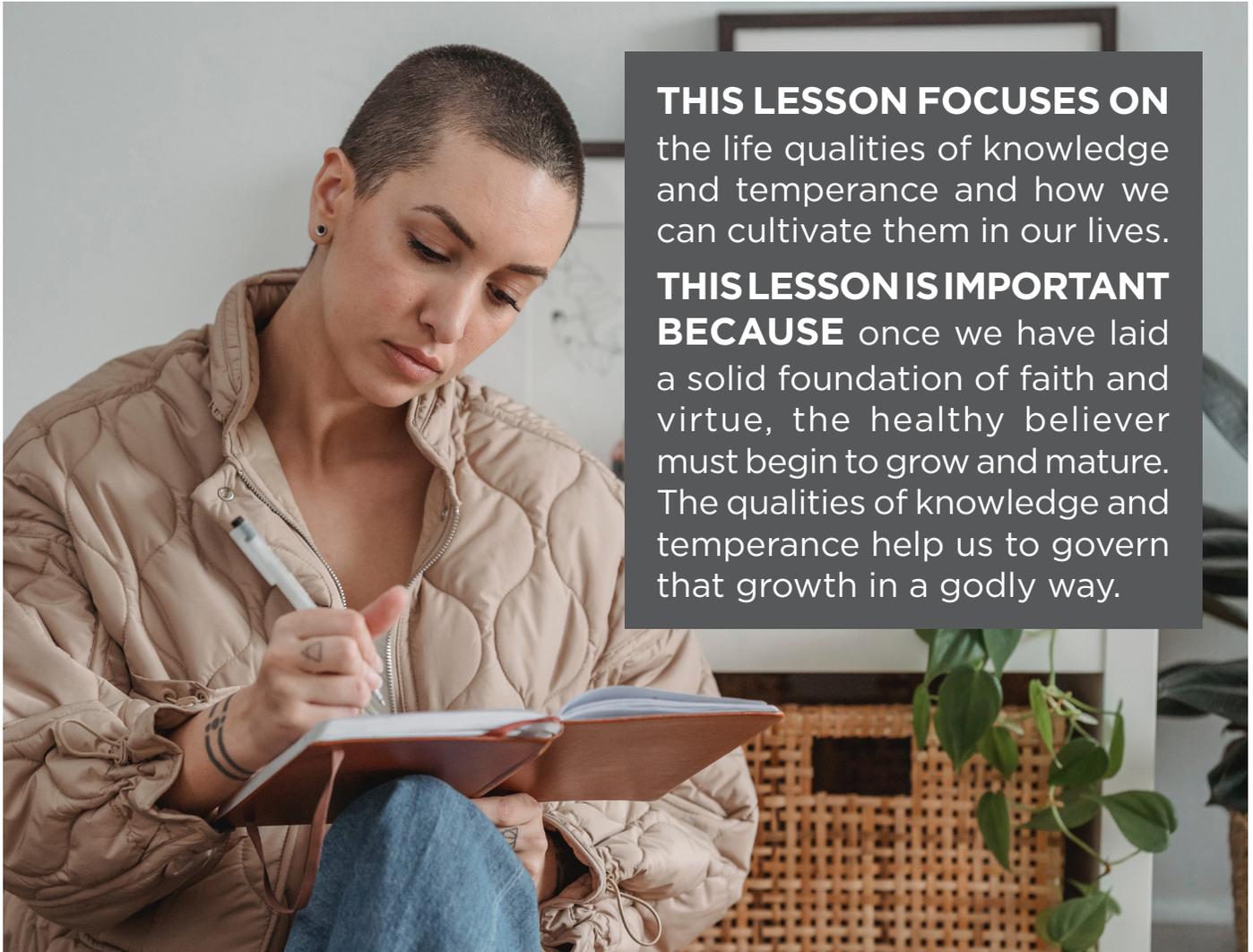
Listening Test:

1. When things get bad, grace gets _____.
 - a. bigger
 - b. smaller
 - c. inferior
2. Your _____ is not based upon your memory.
 - a. salvation
 - b. knowledge
 - c. intelligence
3. Practice makes _____.
 - a. perfect
 - b. possible
 - c. permanent
4. You were designed to produce _____.
 - a. money
 - b. fruit
 - c. accomplishments

GoLife100 | Lesson 11

Life As Discovery: Adding Knowledge & Temperance

BY DUDLEY HALL



THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the life qualities of knowledge and temperance and how we can cultivate them in our lives.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE once we have laid a solid foundation of faith and virtue, the healthy believer must begin to grow and mature. The qualities of knowledge and temperance help us to govern that growth in a godly way.

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CASE STUDY:

A high school student in your city is suing the school district for violation of freedom of speech. The student has been given detention more than ten times in the past semester for using excessive, inappropriate language during class.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

Keeping a public audience in mind, what would you say in a letter to the editor of your local newspaper with your views on this topic, and how would you make your points relevant?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you mention in your letter the importance of a healthy learning environment or the issue of self-control?

GoLife100 | Lesson 11

Life As Discovery: Adding Knowledge & Temperance

BY DUDLEY HALL

I. Review

II. “Adding” Knowledge:

- A. Knowledge is more relational than intellectual.
- B. [Matthew 6:19-21](#): Your heart follows your investment.
- C. [Matthew 6:22-23](#): The focus determines the light.
- D. [Matthew 6:24](#): Faith demands fidelity.
 - 1. You cannot serve God and mammon.
 - 2. Anxiety is the symptom of schizophrenic faith.
- E. [Matthew 6:25-34](#): Our priority is to embrace the government of God in every aspect of our existence.

**When you
surrender to the
Kingdom of God,
your appetites
no longer make
the decisions—
His values do.**

Define a Term:

ANXIETY: *Concern or solicitude respecting some event, future or uncertain, which disturbs the mind, and keeps it in a state of painful uneasiness. (Webster’s 1828)*

III. “Adding” Temperance:

- A. The relationship between temperance and meekness.
- B. [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#):
 - 1. We should live conscious of the presence of God in our lives.
 - 2. We are managers of God’s property.
 - a. We must submit our appetites.
 - b. We must submit our ambitions.
 - 3. We live for the glory of God.

Memory Verse:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

—[Matthew 6:33-34](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 11

Life As Discovery: Adding Knowledge & Temperance

BY DUDLEY HALL

Homework:

1. Proverbs 1:7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Explain this verse in light of how knowledge is defined in this lesson.
2. What is an area in which you have chosen to invest yourself, during this season of your life? Have you seen evidence of your heart following?
3. As you are further equipped with powerful tools of knowledge and insight of how to effectively develop and use your Christian worldview, why do you think it will be important to have the truths of this lesson operating in your life?
4. How should adding temperance to our lives affect the way we make decisions about how we are going to spend our time?

Listening Test:

- 1. God gives _____ on an as-needed basis.**
 - a. assurance
 - b. grace
 - c. punishment

- 2. Life in focus = What God says is what we _____, what we say, and what we do.**
 - a. believe
 - b. control
 - c. ignore

- 3. _____ means one under the control of another.**
 - a. Sacrifice
 - b. Leadership
 - c. Meekness

- 4. The happiest people in the world are those who realize their dreams.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

GoLife100 | Lesson 12

Life As Discovery: Adding Patience

BY DUDLEY HALL



THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the life quality of patience and what God is after in our lives as He places us in situations which require patience.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE the process requires enduring with patience the shaping of your life, not just your perspective.

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CASE STUDY:

Over the last few weeks, work has become increasingly difficult. Your boss can be very demanding and selfish, and the current project you are working on has you interacting with him more than ever.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How would you respond?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Was your first response to ask God what He is after in this situation?

GoLife100 | Lesson 12

Life As Discovery: Adding Patience

BY DUDLEY HALL

I. Patience is the power to endure.

A. [James 1:2-5](#): *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

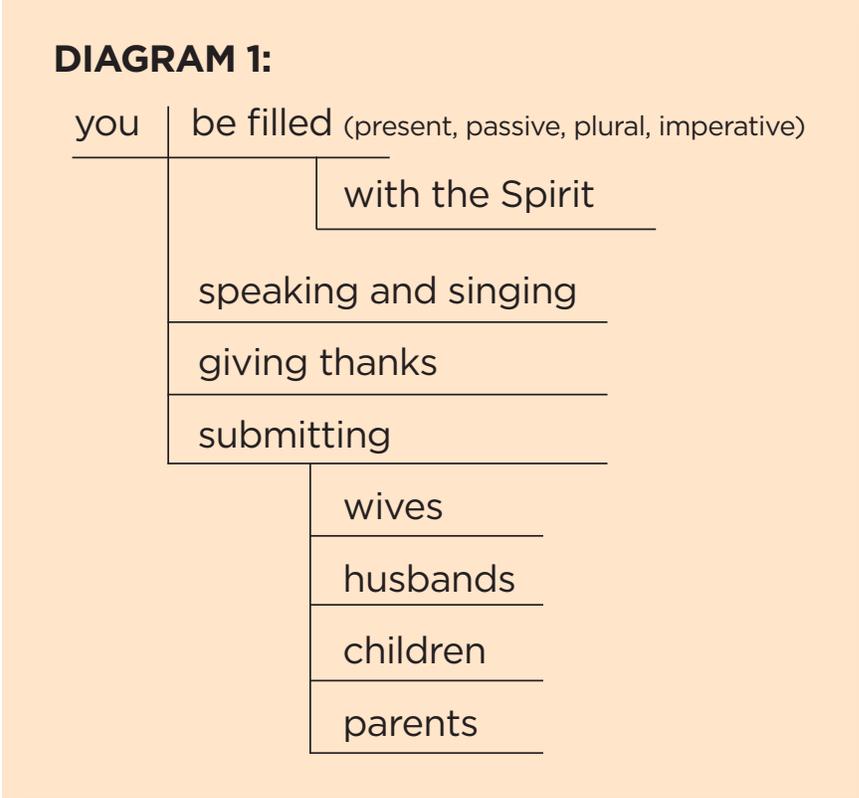
Patience is connected with wisdom.

II. Four things God does in our lives at any given time-

- A. God desires to indwell us by His Spirit.
- B. God intends to fill us with His Spirit.

1. [Ephesians 5:18-24](#): *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

2. [Verses 18-21](#) diagrammed:



Define a Term:

ENDURE: to bear; to sustain; to support without breaking or yielding to force or pressure; to bear with patience; to bear without opposition or sinking under the pressure; to undergo; to sustain; to continue in. (Webster's 1828)

- C. God seeks to mold us.
- D. God seeks to spread us.
 1. [2 Corinthians 4:1-7](#): *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

Memory Verse:

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness..."

—[2 Peter 1:5-6](#)

**Thanksgiving
is a shortcut
from the
"blahs" to
joy.**

GoLife100 | Lesson 12

Life As Discovery: Adding Patience

BY DUDLEY HALL

Homework:

1. How does Dudley define patience in his opening statements, and how do the four things God wants to do in our lives relate to that definition?
2. Why do you believe that patience is an essential ingredient in the process of helping you become a prophetic voice to your culture?
3. In what ways did Stephen serve as a prophetic voice to his culture?
4. After studying this lesson, how might you counsel the person described in the Case Study?

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Listening Test:

1. You cannot submit to others when you are not filled/indwelled with _____.
 - a. self-esteem
 - b. joy
 - c. the Holy Spirit
2. If you don't know the principle of _____, you can't run the family.
 - a. a hard work ethic
 - b. servanthood
 - c. marketing
3. A servant is one whose goal is to make another _____.
 - a. successful
 - b. unsuccessful
 - c. comfortable

GoLife100 | Lesson 13

Life As Discovery: Adding Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love

BY DUDLEY HALL



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the life qualities of godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, and why they are essential characteristics of the mature Christian life.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE the way we relate with others must be in alignment with the message we bring.

CASE STUDY:

Your supervisor has lied to his boss by blaming a project delay on you.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What plan of action would you take?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Was your goal from the incident with your supervisor to clear your name or have a closer relationship with your supervisor?

GoLife100 | Lesson 13

Life As Discovery: Adding Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love

BY DUDLEY HALL

I. Godliness is mercy revealed:

- A. Mercy enables us to forgive.
- B. The opposite of forgiveness is bitterness.
- C. Bitterness is a root problem, which produces fruit ([Hebrews 12:15](#)).
 - 1. Physically.
 - 2. In our believing.
- D. God desires that we would demonstrate His life in us by forgiving others.
- E. There are two questions we should ask of ourselves to discern if there is bitterness in our hearts:
 - 1. Is there someone I feel owes me something?
 - 2. Is there any event in my life for which I have not given thanks?

**Forgiveness
is a choice.**

Define a Term:

RESTORE: to replace; to return; to bring back; to heal; to cure; to make restitution or satisfaction for a thing taken, by returning something else, or something of different value; to repair; to rebuild; to revive; to resuscitate; to bring back to life; to return or bring back after absence; to renew or re-establish after interruption; to recover or renew. (Webster's 1828)

II. Brotherly kindness is our attitude toward the brethren ([Galatians 5:25-6:10](#)):

- A. Restore the fallen.
- B. Bear one another's burdens.
- C. Do your own job.
- D. Share with your teacher.
- E. Do good to the household of faith.

**Love is giving
yourself to
meeting the needs
of another, asking
nothing in return,
and giving no
regard to the cost.**

III. Love is the character of God:

- A. You were designed to love.
- B. Love never fails.

Memory Verse:

“For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

—[2 Peter 1:8-11](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 13

Life As Discovery: Adding Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love

BY DUDLEY HALL

Homework:

1. Give an example, from your life, where forgiveness produced the fruit of deeper relationship.
2. Why is brotherly kindness an essential quality for any believer who is pursuing the purposes of God?
3. Summarize, in the space provided, the process of “adding” in 2 Peter 1:5-7, and what each step builds into the Christian life.
4. What has been most significant to you about going through this series?

Listening Test:

1. If we refuse the grace to forgive, we will not have the grace to believe.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. God will not give you grace to handle things that He did not give you _____ for.
 - a. money
 - b. responsibility
 - c. preference
3. Only people with the nature of God in them can truly _____.
 - a. rule
 - b. succeed
 - c. forgive
4. Jesus connects _____ and forgiveness.
 - a. faith
 - b. fear
 - c. feelings

GoLife100 | Lesson 14

The Vision of Becoming a Prophetic Voice to Your Generation

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON what is required for us to truly become a prophetic voice to our generation and culture. It will examine the biblical precedent for embracing this task and some of the tools we have been given by God to succeed in this endeavor.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE until we possess a driving and sustaining vision for living a life that makes a difference in the world around us, we will be unable to endure the processing necessary to become those who are shaping the culture rather than being shaped by it.

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CASE STUDY:

A report on the news ends with a familiar phrase: “This appears to be another attempt by the Christian ‘Right’ to force their views onto others.”

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

Is it wrong for Christians to try to influence the culture around them? Why?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Who do you believe has been most influential in shaping your generation? What are some factors that have contributed to their success?

GoLife100 | Lesson 14

The Vision of Becoming a Prophetic Voice to Your Generation

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. Paul's charge to the church at Corinth ([2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#)):

- A. This charge relates to the same battle we have been in since the fall ([Genesis 3](#)).
- B. In Christ, we have been called to challenge the lies and deceptions that have trapped people and break them free to life in Him.

II. At all times, we are either shaping or being shaped by the world around us:

- A. Since the beginning, God's mission for us has been to shape the world in which He has placed us.
- B. This course is designed to help you become a prophetic, shaping voice to the world around you.
- C. To effectively shape the world around us, we must be conscious of both what we believe and why we believe it.
 - 1. Those who shape the culture, Christian or not, know what they believe and why they believe it.
 - 2. Those who are shaped by the culture do not know what they believe or why they believe it.

Define a Term:

CULTURE: *the ideas, customs, skills, arts, etc. of a given people in a given period (Webster's 1828)*

III. The Church has been called to work on earth to establish God's Kingdom order and to be a prophetic voice to a lost culture:

- A. This task will require training. Simply desiring to succeed is not enough.
 - 1. Those who war against God's Kingdom order have gone to great lengths to shape the world we know. Example: Charles Darwin.
 - 2. Our public education system is a force in shaping our young people.
- B. This task will require you to embrace God's Word in a new and significant way.
- C. This task will require you to be willing to be used to bring a spiritual revolution to our current world system.
 - 1. The example of Moses.
 - 2. You have been born with great opportunities.

Simply knowing what you believe is not enough.

- D. This task will require you to embrace personal transformation.
- E. This task will require you to discover the right relationships God has for you.
- F. This task will require you to embrace strategic living and discover life on the offense.
- G. This task will require you to see the Law of God in a new light.
- H. This task will require that you “understand the times” and “have knowledge” of what to do...
 - 1. In your nation
 - 2. In your generation

It is easy for Satan to pull a brick from a pile, but it is very difficult for Satan to take a brick out of a wall.

IV. This life is designed to train us for an eternity of reigning with Christ.

V. This course is designed to help you become a prophetic voice of the life of God to your generation:

- A. It is designed to encourage you to a life of authority because of its authenticity and integrity.
- B. It is designed to teach you how to think, not just what to think.
- C. It is designed to make you conscious of why you believe what you believe.
- D. It is designed to make you aware of how you are affecting and impacting people and the world around you.
- E. It is designed to teach you to live strategically and shape the world around you.

Memory Verse:

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

—2 Corinthians 10:3-5

GoLife100 | Lesson 14

The Vision of Becoming a Prophetic Voice to Your Generation

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. What does it mean to be a prophetic voice to your culture?
2. Why do you think it is important to know why you believe something?
3. What area of our culture do you most want to see impacted by the message of the gospel through your life?
4. When you hear phrases like the one in the case study, how do you react, and how do you think God wants to adjust that response? (For reference, here again is this lesson's Case Study: The news report ends with a familiar phrase: "This appears to be another attempt by the Christian 'Right' to force their views onto others.")

Listening Test:

1. The Law of God has no relevance after the cross.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Living a strategic life is an unreachable goal.
 - a. True
 - b. False

GoLife100 | Lesson 15

Worldview As Lifestyle

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the idea that the way we think must be manifested in the way that we live. We will examine the basic components of a worldview and provide tools and perspective on how to best apply what we are learning to how we live our lives.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE until your worldview is self-consciously applied to your own way of living in a manner that produces life and growth, you will be unable to truly be a prophetic voice to your generation.

CASE STUDY:

Your church takes a survey in your community to determine the most common reasons people have rejected Christianity. The plan is to use the results to develop a more effective evangelism strategy. The number one answer received is, "because Christians are such hypocrites."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

Based upon the above information, what three suggestions would you make to the leadership regarding how your church organizes its members for the work of evangelism?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Based on your three suggestions, how would you best define your paradigm of evangelism?

GoLife100 | Lesson 15

Worldview As Lifestyle

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER

I. Key ideas:

- A. Everyone has a worldview! A worldview is a set of personal beliefs and assumptions (presuppositions) we hold about the world around us, that determine our view of reality and produce/direct our behavior. In simplest terms, it is our underlying beliefs—whether conscious or unconscious—concerning what we believe about the nature of God, the nature of Man, and the nature of truth. A person's worldview determines their view and interpretation of reality.
- B. When a person accepts salvation, they do not automatically gain a Christian worldview. Coming to salvation (Christ-centered) is merely the first step; our next step (John 3:3) should be a Kingdom mindset and lifestyle (cross-centered).

Define a Term:

PARADIGMS: Collections of ideas or concepts (gridworks of thought) that frame how we look at life.

PRESUPPOSITIONS [*pre = before; suppose = thinking*]: Assumptions upon which all thought is based that make up our worldview; an agenda, conscious or unconscious, defined or undefined; a thing tacitly assumed beforehand, at the beginning of a line of argument or course of action

EPISTEMOLOGY: Understanding what we believe and how and why we know it.

LIFESTYLE: A way of life; the habits, attitudes, tastes, moral standards, economic level, etc. that constitute the mode of living of an individual or group.

II. The battle for incarnation:

- A. On the worldview journey, we begin influenced, then we get intercepted/interrupted, then integration is meant to follow which, in turn, leads to influence.
INTERCEPTION = THE GOSPEL | INTEGRATION = THE KINGDOM
- B. Biblical worldview and lifestyle is about completely re-arranging how you live and evaluate your life.

III. Transformation: embodying our worldview:

- A. What does a life of transformation mean? (While repentance deals with guilt and penalty, transformation deals with motivation, goals, and disciplines).
 1. The essence of all sin is selfishness. Transformation is coming out of a selfish orientation and into Christ-centered orientation. It is the Holy Spirit who leads us into godly transformation. When Christ asks you to follow Him, you can't stay where you are.
 2. Biblical transformation comes from the inside and works outward.
 - a. When the Bible talks about the thoughts of the heart and renewing of our

minds, it is referring to bringing both our conscious and unconscious perspectives into alignment with God's word.

3. Biblical change is obedience-oriented rather than fulfillment-oriented (Matthew 6:33; John 7:17).
4. To produce change, you must be in the transformation you are advocating.

B. Barriers to transformation:

1. From within (internal):
 - a. Dualism mindset and/or the "Americanized Jesus"
 - b. Rebellion or defiance
 - c. Fear of change or lack of urgency to change
 - d. Misdiagnosis or changing the wrong thing
 - e. Our own agenda
 - f. Lack of vision or ability
2. From without (external):
 - a. No mentor or discipleship
 - b. Spiritual warfare
 - c. Speed of life: When the enemy cannot stop us, he gets behind us and pushes us faster than we can handle.

When we justify behavior (the mind justifies what the heart has chosen), we can't help but absorb the worldview and beliefs that make that behavior "right." We adjust God to fit our desires.

IV. The "how-tos" of a worldview-aligned lifestyle:

- A. Mindsets (conceptual; key truths) and habits (executorial; how-tos)
 1. We must continuously engage the Scriptures as absolute truth, building concepts, thinking processes, and emotional behavior on the patterns of God's Word.
 2. We must practice being with God to sustain doing for God.
 3. Practice the art of self reflection, embrace evaluation, and be teachable.
 4. Talking about something does not change it; we must take action.
 5. Practice makes permanent.
 6. Attitude: Are you a critic or a change agent?
 7. Holistic: body, soul and spirit
 8. Tending your garden
- B. A disciple of Christ both walks in and continuously pursues the Kingdom of God.
 1. This manifests in an integrated biblical worldview, which means a person's thought life, beliefs, and lifestyle are based on both the implicit and explicit principles of the Bible.
 2. This produces a wholistic approach to life which, in turn, develops discernment (asking the right questions), effective problem solving, practical living, spiritual growth, spiritual perspective, and ongoing transformation.
 3. This ultimately creates a ripple effect on everyone that it touches!

GoLife100 | Lesson 16

The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen

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?

GoLife100 | Lesson 16

The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

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

A. *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. For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God. —John 3:19-21*

1. A heart toward God: When we get saved, we get a new heart (Jeremiah 24:7; Ezekiel 36:26), and our heart in Christ wants to see God work through us (Philippians 2:12-13)
2. A heart towards self: The unredeemed heart is self-exalting.
3. Each heart has an agenda to justify its own position.

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 (defined or undefined). These assumptions are called *presuppositions* and they address the nature of God, the nature of man, and the nature of truth.

B. Presuppositions set our agendas and determine four things:

1. How you gather information
2. How information is analyzed
3. How information is presented
4. How you want to use the information

C. All modern culture and ideologies are built on presuppositions. Presuppositions are frequently hidden or inadequately presented to the public. These presuppositions enable our paradigms.

1. **Paradigm:** a way of viewing or thinking about a subject that is bound by particular assumptions about that subject and its relationship to the world.

D. All clear thinking is based on identifying the applicable presuppositions of thought. As Christians, we have the responsibility to expose and pull down the world system's presuppositions.

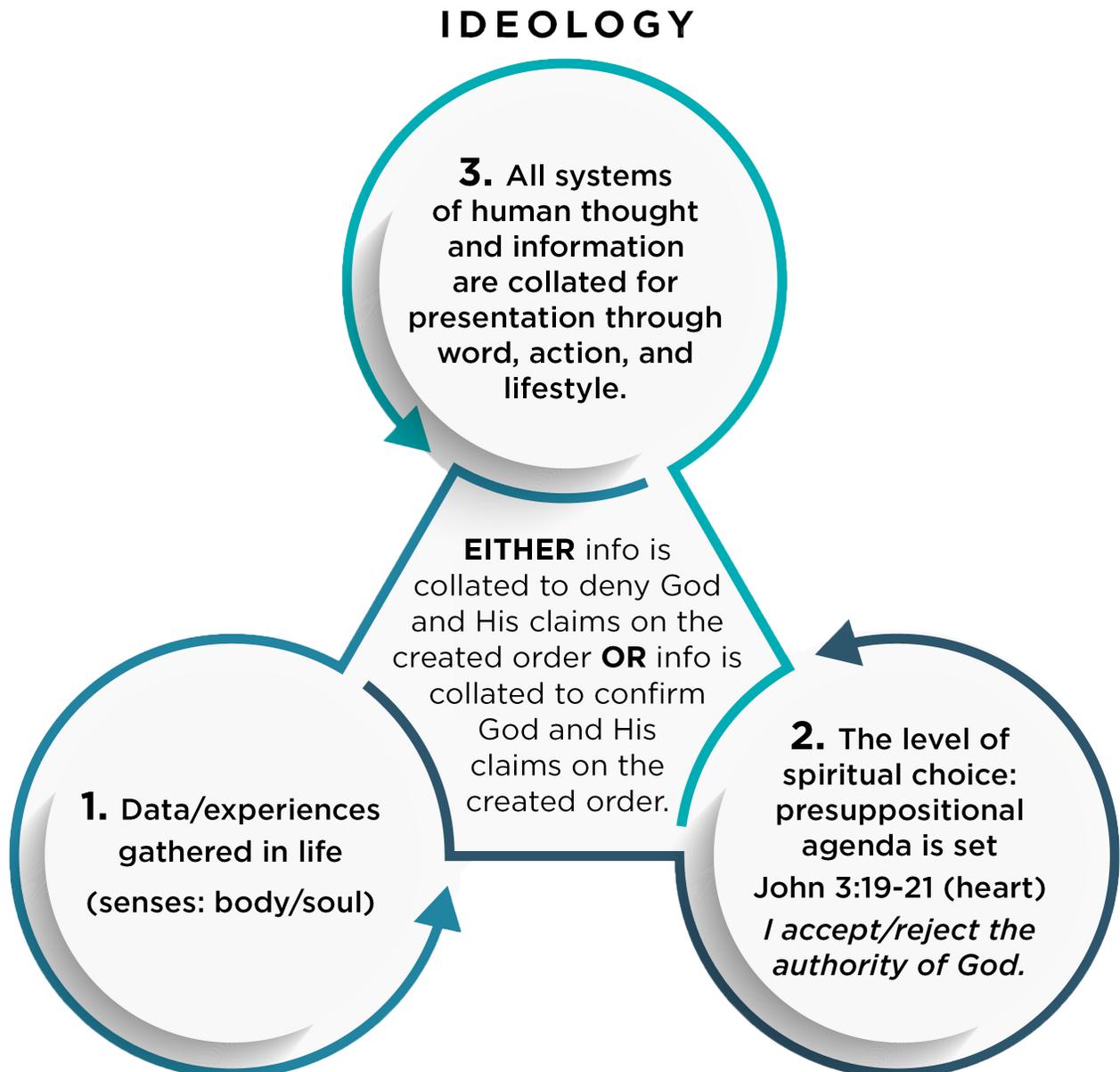
For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. —II Corinthians 10:3-5

III. Ideology and agendas:

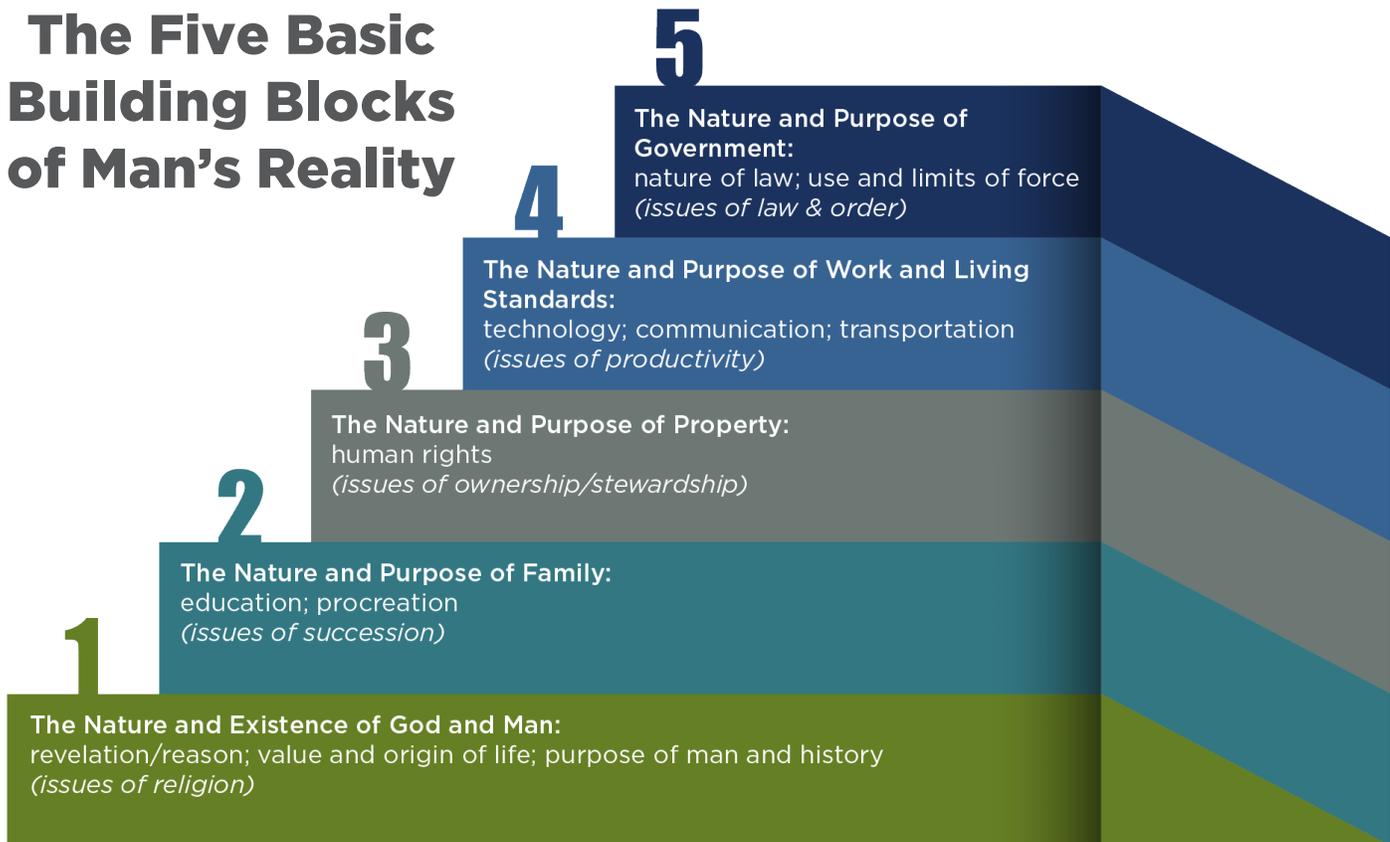
- A. Our agendas determine how we gather evidence and how our experiences are gathered in life
- B. The level of spiritual choice (the critical junction)
 - 1. "I accept or reject the authority of God in my life."

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.
—John 3.19-21

- C. All systems of information are collated and presented in such a way to justify the choice that undergirds them (presuppositions).
 - 1. We should ask ourselves: *Is this system of God designed to attack God and his authority? Or is this system designed to discover God and obey His authority?*



The Five Basic Building Blocks of Man's Reality



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IV. “The Five Basic Building Blocks” of man’s reality:

1. All human thought systems deal with these five basics questions of life.

A. Building Block 1: The nature and existence of God and man

1. Deals with questions relative to:
 - a. The difference between revelation and reason
 - b. The origin of life
 - c. The purpose of man and history
2. These questions directly relate to the various studies of:
3. Eschatology: The study of end times
4. Teleology: The study of the evidences of design or purpose
5. Axiology: The study of values
6. Ontology: The study of the nature of being
7. Epistemology: The study of knowledge

B. Building Block 2: The nature and purpose of the family

1. Deals with questions relative to:
 - a. What is the definition of a family?
 - b. What is the responsibility of a family? Biblically families are to create people for the glory of God, educate children with a Christian worldview, and contribute to the organization of culture.

C. Building Block 3: The nature of property

1. Internal property: Our conscience is our most important piece of private prop-

erty and our first responsibility to steward. Additional internal properties include our dignity, character issues, etc.

2. External property: physical assets, taxation issues, economic issues, etc.
3. God establishes the principle of private property since He owns the earth
The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof... —Psalm 24:1

D. Building Block 4: The nature of work and standard of living

1. What is the nature of work?
2. What living standards should we seek after?
3. Also connects to issues surrounding technology, communication, transportation

E. Building Block 5: The nature and purpose of government

1. Deals with the nature of law and the use and limits of force, as well as the nature of authority and use of power.
2. Biblically, all government begins in the trinity.

V. Examples of Presuppositional Agendas:

PRESUPPOSITIONS

ORIGINS OF LIFE



CHRISTIAN: God exists and is intentional, creating us with design and for a purpose.

NON-CHRISTIAN: God doesn't exist. All information is gathered and forced through the filter of randomness, natural selection, or another filter.

SEXUAL FREEDOM



CHRISTIAN: God exists and is the Creator of both sex and marriage. He has a design, function, and purpose for our sexuality.

NON-CHRISTIAN: God doesn't exist. All moral decisions are based on hope of science "freeing" us from the natural consequences of disease and pregnancy.

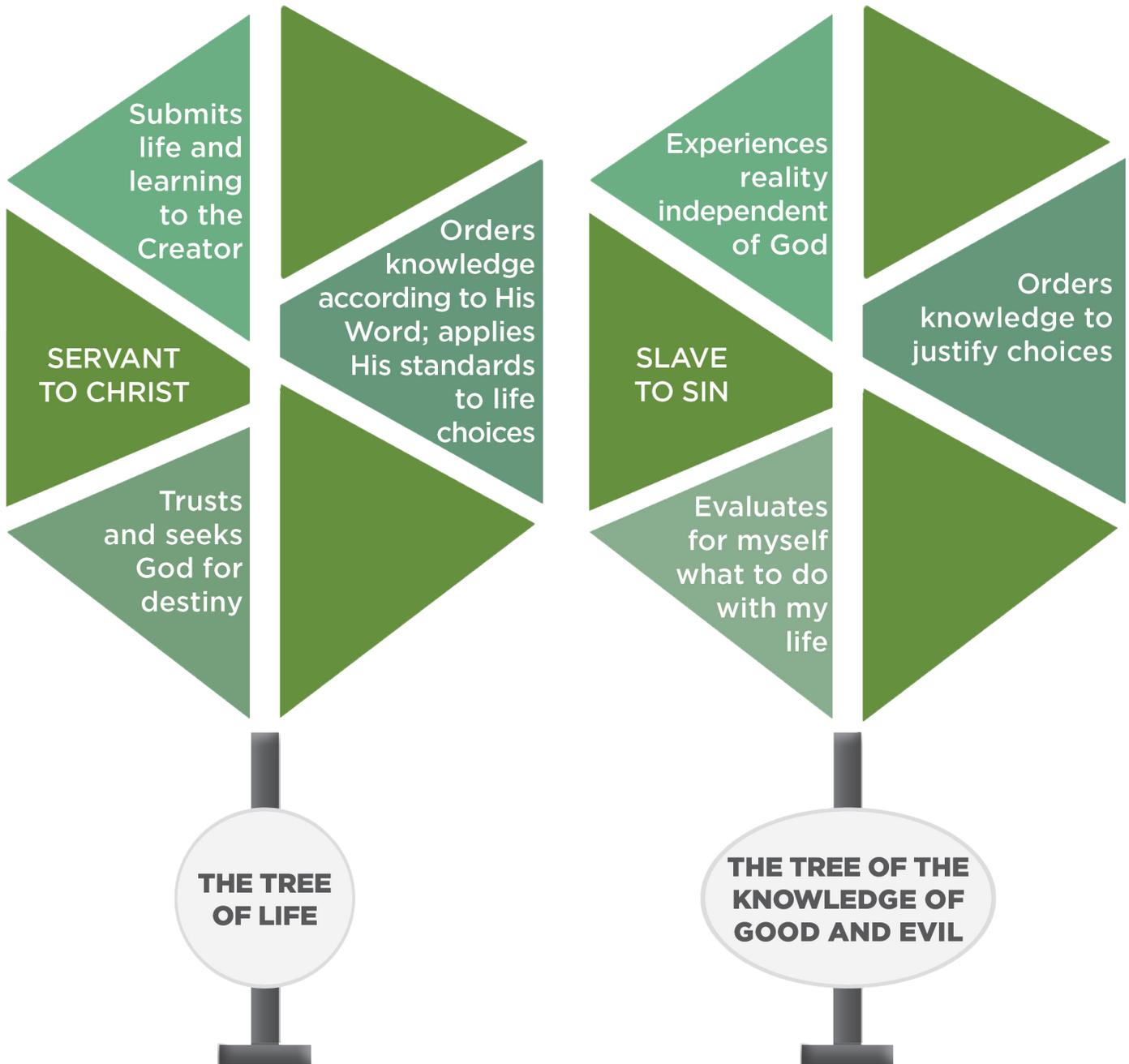
HUMAN HISTORY



CHRISTIAN: God exists and is involved in history, unfolding His divine plans.

NON-CHRISTIAN: God doesn't exist. Human history has no meaning beyond the gradual enlightened development of man as he discovers himself through education and scientific technology.

VI. The Two Trees in the Garden:



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

GoLife100 | Lesson 17

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?



BY DUDLEY HALL



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON how people come to believe what they believe. It will examine the different types of things that people put their faith in and what the consequences of our beliefs are.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE we must be aware of why people think and believe as they do and how to challenge those thoughts and beliefs in a way that will position them for a revelation of the truth of Jesus Christ.

CASE STUDY:

As you're talking with a friend about your beliefs, he states, "I guess I'm just not the type of person who can have faith. If I haven't experienced it, I just don't believe it's true."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you say to your friend and what would your goal be in a conversation like this? Why?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you explain to your friend that everyone lives by faith?

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Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

BY DUDLEY HALL

I. Why do we believe what we believe?

- A. The greatest sin of this culture is any form of exclusion.
- B. What makes us believe and commit our lives to our ideas of truth? Refer to the example of Paul in [Acts 17:1-3](#).

II. All explanations of reality are based on faith. Diagram One:

DIAGRAM 1:

THE DECISION TREE

something	nothing
personal	impersonal
polytheist monotheist	naturalist pantheist

III. The mind justifies the heart:

- A. Our minds find a way to justify whatever our hearts embrace ([Romans 1:18-21](#))
- B. Every man must make a decision about what he knows of God from creation ([Romans 1:21](#)).
- C. The choice to reject God breaks down the distinctions He has built into the creation ([Romans 1:22-25](#)).
- D. Every philosophy and system of man justifies a lifestyle consistent with what the rebellion in his heart has chosen.
- E. We all look for ways to remove God from our reasoning.

IV. The panel of experts:

- A. Logic: Unless God and His ways can stand up to the criteria of pure logic, He deserves no serious consideration.
- B. Experience: Only what a person has experienced himself will he validate as true (empiricism).
- C. Tradition: Every issue must pass the test of conforming to precedent. Denominational distinctives often supersede biblical truth in determining belief.

Christianity is based upon the assumption of an absolute God who makes absolute distinctions.

Define a Term:

JUSTIFY: to prove or show to be just, or conformable to law, right, justice, propriety or duty; to defend or maintain; to vindicate as right. (Webster's 1828)

V. Popular lies:

- A. You can do anything you want to.
- B. A person can be whatever they want to be.
- C. You can know anything you want to know.

VI. Experts transformed by revelation and a life yielded to God:

- A. Receives revelation that enlightens reason.
- B. Interprets experience.
- C. Judges traditions.

VII. The common crises of conversion:

- A. God demands His place as the definer and boundary-setter in each one's life.
- B. We must resign as the arbiter of what is best for ourselves.

VIII. A new panel of experts.

**No matter what
a man believes,
he believes
it as a result
of expressing
faith.**

Memory Verse:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,"

—[Romans 1:18-20](#)

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Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

BY DUDLEY HALL

Homework:

1. Describe something in your life that you perceived as true, but have now come to realize was actually a reflection of a choice you made in your heart.
2. Which of the “panel of experts” do you feel exercises the most influence in our culture today? Why?
3. What do the three popular lies Dudley referred to reveal about the presuppositions that are prevalent in our culture today?
4. Why is it hard to explain “ethics” if you do not believe in a personal God?

Listening Test:

1. According to God, human life is more valuable than animal life.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Two things God requires: That you _____ and thank Him as the source of all life.
 - a. believe in Jesus
 - b. live by His boundaries
 - c. have a consistent devotional life
3. When you _____, He gives you a revelation that enlightens your reason, interprets your experience, and judges your tradition.
 - a. yield yourself to God
 - b. read the Bible
 - c. go to church
4. Your _____ are the ultimate deciders of what you are going to do with reality.
 - a. best intentions
 - b. feelings
 - c. “panel of experts”

GoLife100 | Lesson 18

Worldview and the History of Metaphysics

BY WALTER DUERR



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the history of philosophical thought as to the nature of God and man. It will examine the theories that have most shaped our modern view and the men who proposed them.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE we must know what we believe and why we believe it, what the culture is prone to believe, and why it has come to its conclusions. History is an incredible tool to help us in this process.

CASE STUDY:

“What is the value in your learning all of those big words and philosophies, and how does it help you become a better Christian?” Your friend’s question surprises you a little, yet by the sincere way she asks it, you know it is important that you have a clear answer.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How would you answer your friend’s question?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

How can you explain to your friend the importance of being diachronous to help you mature as a Christian?

GoLife100 | Lesson 18

Worldview and the History of Metaphysics

BY WALTER DUERR

I. Basic principles for approaching the building of a biblical Christian worldview:

- A. It is important to know the facts of your worldview, but it is incomplete without the life experience of your worldview (Apple example).
- B. The biblical Christian worldview should consider the historic tradition of the Bible's interpretation and not simply rely on an individual's own revelation. We want to be diachronous (taking history into account).
- C. We want to be in unity with the Body of Christ as much as possible. We want to be synchronous (ecumenical).
- D. We must know what we believe and why we believe it, and we must know what we do not believe and why we do not believe it.
- E. Language is a help. Do not be intimidated by big words.
- F. The mind justifies what the heart has chosen. We need to think presuppositionally and go back to the basic ideas ([John 3:19-21](#); [Romans 1:18-2:12](#)).
- G. We must choose at the heart level whether we are going to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or from the Tree of Life.

Define a Term:

METAPHYSICS *The science of the principles and causes of all things existing; hence, the science of mind or intelligence. (Webster's 1828)*

II. Introduction to the history of metaphysics:

- A. Metaphysics is the study of last principles. This term was developed to help categorize the works of Aristotle.

**“Whatever
is furthest
back is
God.”
—Francis
Schaeffer**

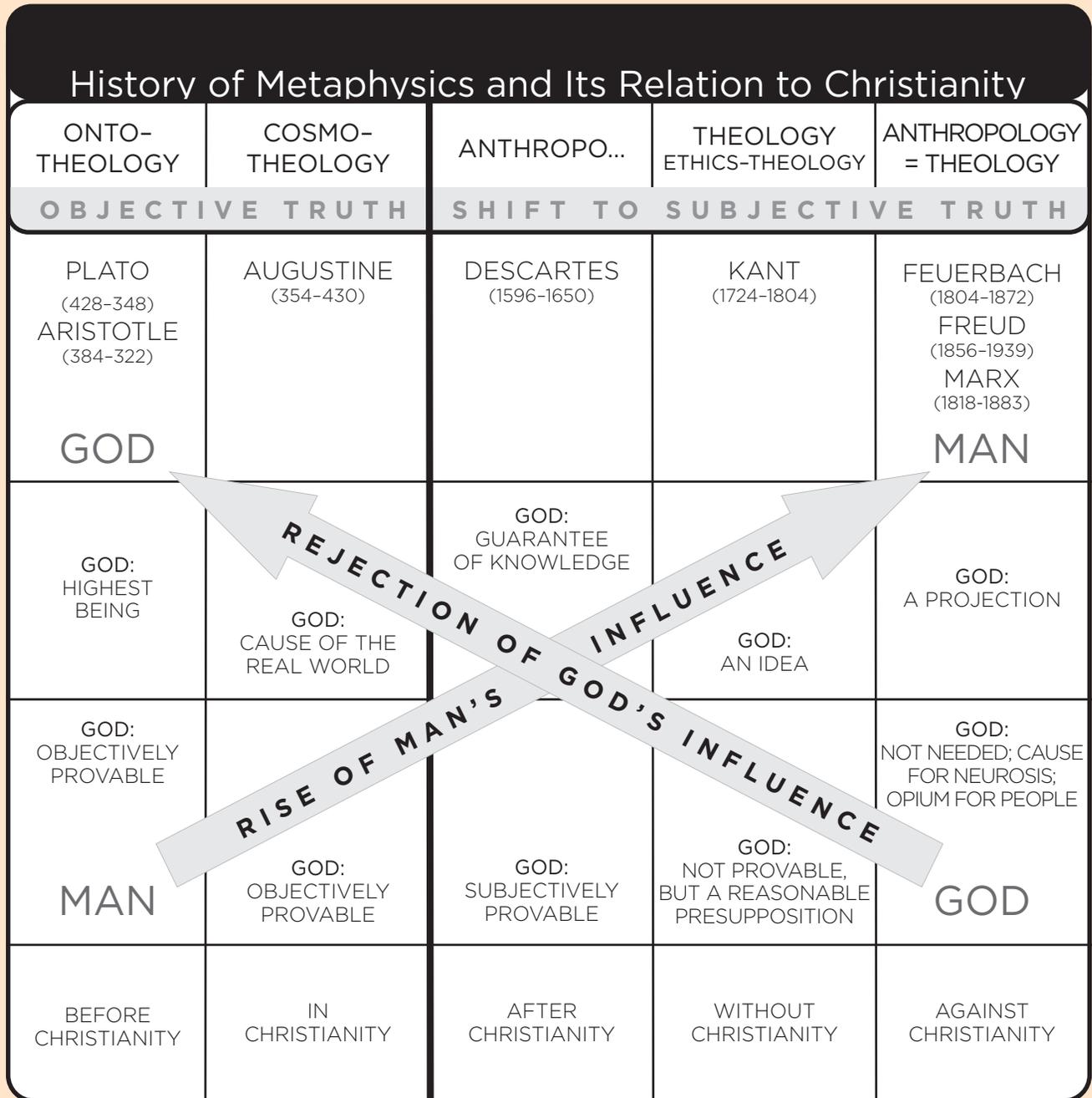
Memory Verse:

“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 to 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 3:19-21](#)

B. Diagram 1: The History of Metaphysics and Its Relationship to Christianity

DIAGRAM 1:



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Worldview and the History of Metaphysics

BY WALTER DUERR

Homework:

1. Why was Descartes' philosophical work so significant to the history of metaphysics?
2. What most impacted you about the chart detailing the history of metaphysical thought?
3. At one point in the history of philosophy, Christian thinkers were most influential. Why do you believe this is no longer the case?
4. Why should we aspire to know what we do not believe and why we do not believe it?

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Listening Test:

1. The Bible is always bigger than what I understand of it.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. There is a difference between an "academic" and an "intellectual."
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Immanent means part of the world; _____ means outside the world.
 - a. exterior
 - b. transcendent
 - c. superficial
4. In his theories, Descartes initiated the shift to the _____ approach to proving God's existence.
 - a. subjective truth
 - b. objective truth
 - c. moral

GoLife100 | Lesson 19

The Four Basic Philosophical Questions



BY WALTER DUERR



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the four basic philosophical questions that every worldview must answer. It examines the significant aspects of each question and provides a biblically based answer for each question.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE without a clear understanding of how the Christian worldview addresses the major questions of life, we will be ineffective in challenging our culture, particularly with those who are currently shaping its views, and in responding to God and embracing His principles.

CASE STUDY:

You meet a university philosophy professor. When she discovers you are a Christian, she asks, "How can you possibly believe the Bible contains a better picture for understanding modern life than science and technology?"

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How would you respond to the professor's question? Why do science and technology fail to address modern life as clearly as the Bible, and why can the Bible be trusted as a source of truth?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did your answer show that you believe in the Bible by design?

GoLife100 | Lesson 19

The Four Basic Philosophical Questions

BY WALTER DUERR

I. Worldview has to do with simple questions that everyone is asking:

- A. Where do I come from?
- B. Who am I?
- C. Where am I going?
- D. How do I know?

Revelation is not at war with science, but it is the standard for interpreting scientific conclusions.

Define a Term:

EPISTEMOLOGY: *Study of knowledge, the part of philosophy concerned with the theory of knowledge, its nature, limits, and validity. (Francis Schaeffer) The study or theory of the origin, nature, methods, and limits of knowledge. (Webster's 1828)*

II. Everyone asks and answers these basic questions either by design or by default.

III. Diagram One: The Ontological Question:

DIAGRAM 1: The Ontological Question

THE PHILOSOPHICAL TERM	THE QUESTION	THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER	THE NON-CHRISTIAN ANSWER
Ontology	How do we exist? Where do we come from? Where does the Universe come from?	“Supernatural” Origin (better: personal)	“Natural” Origin (better: impersonal)

A. Three possible answers:

1. Monism: Everything came from one source and “falls out into many things.”
 - a. Spiritual monism.
 - b. Material monism.
2. Dualism: There is a source of good and a source of bad which both have equal value and will struggle with each other eternally.
3. Trinitarian God

IV. Diagram Two: The Epistemological Question:

DIAGRAM 2: The Epistemological Question

THE PHILOSOPHICAL TERM	THE QUESTION	THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER	THE NON-CHRISTIAN ANSWER
Epistemology	How do we know? How do we know that we know?	Through Revelation	Through Logic and Intuition: Rationalism Through Senses: Empiricism

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V. Diagram Three: The Axiological Question:

DIAGRAM 3: The Axiological Question

THE PHILOSOPHICAL TERM	THE QUESTION	THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER	THE NON-CHRISTIAN ANSWER
Axiology	Is there such a thing as ethics, morals, or absolute standards? What is of highest value?	God is absolute standard (Theism)	Man is absolute standard: Humanism matter is absolute Standard: Materialism

VI. Diagram Four: The Teleological Question:

DIAGRAM 4: The Teleological Question

THE PHILOSOPHICAL TERM	THE QUESTION	THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER	THE NON-CHRISTIAN ANSWER
Teleology	Where are we going? Purpose and Goal of Life and the Cosmos	Kingdom of God	Kingdom of Earth: Communism and any other “-isms”

- A. If the present is “messed up,” then our only hope lies in the future (*futurum*: from here we work our way to a better world.)
- B. Kingdom of God teleology (*adventum*):
 - 1. The Kingdom of God is now existing on the earth, and...
 - 2. The Kingdom of God is not yet fulfilled on the earth.

God is bigger than the Bible, and the Bible is bigger than my ability to fully comprehend it.

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Memory Verse:

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”

—[John 8:31-32](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 19

The Four Basic Philosophical Questions

BY WALTER DUERR

Homework:

- 1. Are Christians anti-scientific because their epistemology is based upon revelation?**
- 2. What is the goal of the neoplatonic, New Age, Hindu, and other Eastern religions teleologically?**
- 3. Why does empirical research fail to provide us with objective truth?**
- 4. What question would you ask the philosophy professor referenced in the case study? Why?**

Listening Test:

1. **Everyone has a worldview.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. _____ **refers to the attempt to go beyond opinion or personal preference.**
 - a. Episteme
 - b. Doxa
 - c. Techne

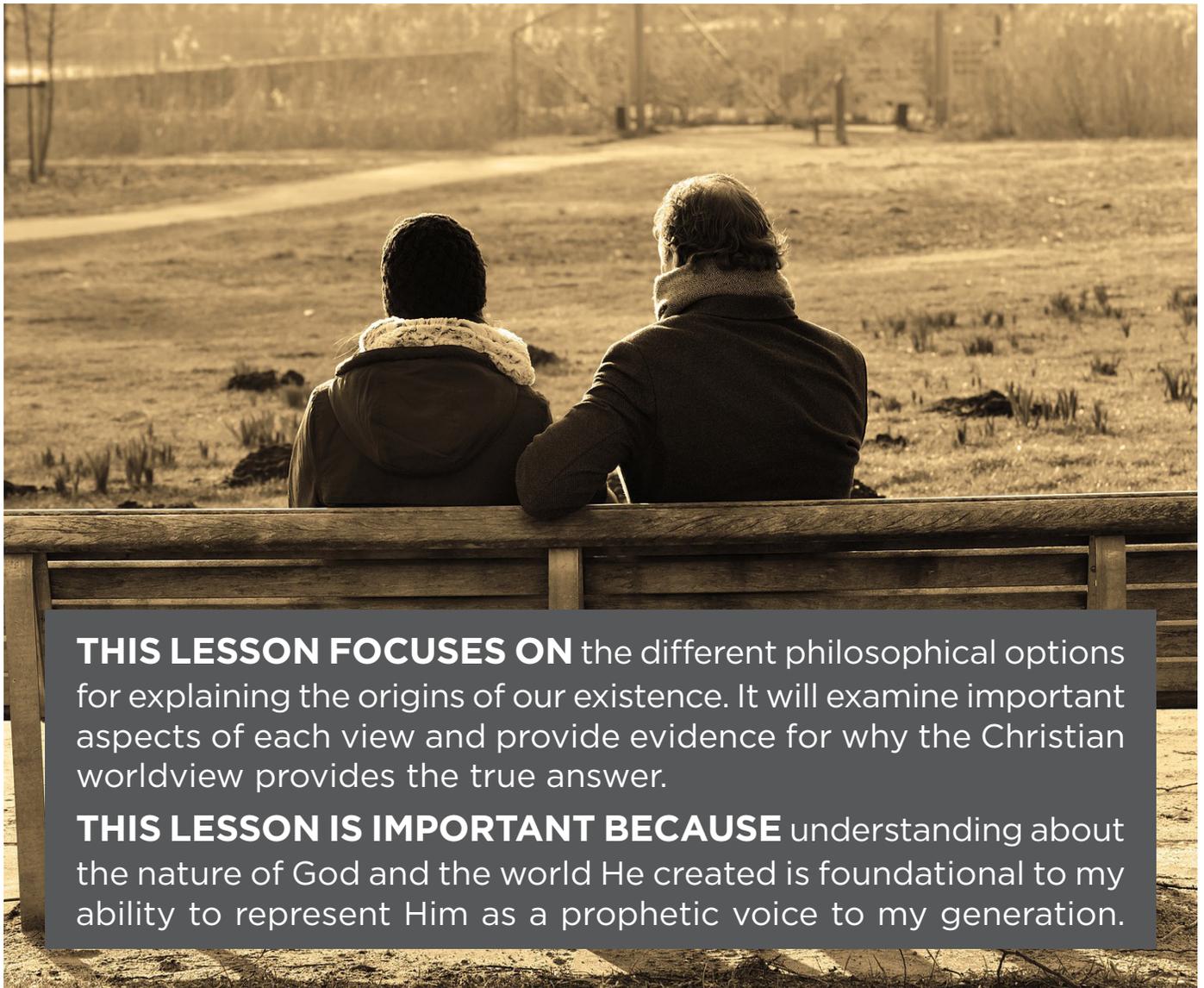
3. **Conflict is the guiding principle of a _____ belief system.**
 - a. monistic
 - b. dualistic
 - c. pluralistic

4. **Descartes was the first _____ philosophically.**
 - a. rationalist
 - b. empiricist
 - c. perfectionist

GoLife100 | Lesson 20

The Ontological Question

BY WALTER DUERR



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the different philosophical options for explaining the origins of our existence. It will examine important aspects of each view and provide evidence for why the Christian worldview provides the true answer.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE understanding about the nature of God and the world He created is foundational to my ability to represent Him as a prophetic voice to my generation.

CASE STUDY:

During a conversation with one of your Christian friends, he reveals to you that he believes God created the world through evolution. “After all, it seems to make sense. There is a lot of evidence for evolution, and God could have created things that way. I think He just got things started and then let the laws of nature bring things to pass.”

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you say to your friend? What are some likely reasons that a Christian would come to this perspective?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Why does the theory of evolution fail to handle all the data in explaining the origin of life?

GoLife100 | Lesson 20

The Ontological Question

BY WALTER DUERR

I. Review: The History of Metaphysics and the Four Basic Philosophical Questions:

- A. Two over-arching philosophical trends:
 - 1. The rise of man.
 - 2. The subjection of God.
- B. The four basic philosophical questions:
 - 1. Ontological:
 - a. Personal start.
 - b. Impersonal start.
 - 2. Epistemological:
 - a. We cannot know anything at all.
 - b. We know by observing what is outside us (empiricism).
 - c. We know by developing what is inside us (rationalism).
 - 3. Axiological:
 - a. Subjective value system.
 - b. Objective value system.
 - 4. Teleological:
 - a. Historic views of teleology.
 - b. *Futurum* and the kingdom of man.
 - c. *Adventum* and the Kingdom of God.

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Define a Term:

CONSCIOUS: Possessing the faculty or power of knowing one's own thoughts, or mental operations. (Webster's 1828)

II. The ontological question amplified:

- A. Philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre: "Why is there something rather than nothing?"
- B. Three possible answers:
 - 1. Everything came from nothing.
 - 2. Everything came from something impersonal.
 - a. The evolutionary equation: Matter + Energy + Time + Chance = Cosmos (everything that is, including man).

A belief that everything came from nothing is not a practical option for living.

- b. What makes man special?
 - c. The development of the concept of “personhood” through the work of Christians in history.
 - d. The failure of the evolutionary equation to address “the personal” and its effects on modern culture.
 - e. What is the basis for teleology within an impersonal ontology?
 - f. What is the basis for a modern value system within an impersonal ontology?
 - g. The eternal nature of matter within the materialistic philosophy.
3. Everything came from something personal.
- a. The dilemma of infiniteness.
 - b. The dilemma of “personhood.”
 - c. The dilemma of unity and diversity.

III. The doctrine of the Trinity as a contribution to philosophy.

**Leaders know
what they do
not believe
and why
they do not
believe it.**

Memory Verse:

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

—[Genesis 1:26-27](#)

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The Ontological Question

BY WALTER DUERR

Homework:

1. How can you use the human rights definition to philosophically challenge the theory of evolution?
2. How has the doctrine of the Trinity paved a foundation for the way you see your life?
3. Why should we care how life began?
4. What is the “deciding” element of the evolutionary equation, and is it consistent with the nature of God as revealed in the Bible? Explain.

Listening Test:

1. **Matter is bound by time and space. Spirit is not bound by time and space.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. **Hitler was wrong from an impersonal, ontological perspective.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. **The _____ view of life is survival of the fittest.**
 - a. creationism
 - b. evolutionary or natural
 - c. mythological
4. **The universal gives meaning to the _____.**
 - a. particular
 - b. typical
 - c. spiritual

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The Ethical Question

BY WALTER DUERR



THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON

the importance of addressing the question of the origin of evil as it relates to the nature of God and the nature of man.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT

BECAUSE we must be able to address its most pressing questions with an understanding that keeps us strong in our faith and produces hope in others.



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CASE STUDY:

With a great deal of pain in her voice, a woman asks, "If God is so good, then why do bad things happen to good people?"

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How would you answer this woman?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Is the evil that befalls people stronger than the goodness of God?

GoLife100 | Lesson 21

The Ethical Question

BY WALTER DUERR

I. Review:

- A. The history of metaphysics.
- B. The four basic philosophical questions.
- C. The ontological question examined:
 - 1. Everything came from nothing.
 - 2. Everything came from something impersonal.
 - 3. Everything came from something personal.
 - a. Personal and Infinite
 - b. Personal and containing both unity and diversity (the Triune God).
- D. The ethical question concerning the origin of evil and suffering.

Define a Term:

ETHICS *The doctrines of morality or social manners; the science of moral philosophy, which teaches men their duty and the reasons of it; a system of moral principles; a system of rules for regulating the actions and manners of men in society. (Webster's 1828)*

II. Theodicy: The justification of God when under philosophical attack.

III. The nature of man:

- A. The being of man.
 - 1. Finite
 - 2. Different
- B. The doing of man.
 - 1. Noble
 - 2. Cruel

When we reach the end of our understanding, we must choose to respond in worship or face a life of emptiness.

IV. Examining the ethical question by our ontological possibilities:

- A. If we have an impersonal start, then we must conclude that man is cruel because of his finiteness (his doing is a direct expression of his being).
- B. If we have a personal start, then we can separate man's "being" from his "doing" in our explanation of man's cruelty.
 - 1. Man, as he now is in his cruelty, is what he has always intrinsically been, or...
 - 2. Man, as he now is, is not what he was. Man is abnormal. He has changed.
 - a. God made the change (He is responsible for "the fall").
 - b. There was a space and time "fall" of man.
 - i. There is hope for redemption.
 - ii. There are real ethics.
 - c. What is the substance of evil?
 - i. Dualist's perspective.
 - ii. Monist's perspective.
 - iii. Augustine: Evil is the perversion of the good; it has no existence in itself.
 - d. God created the potential of evil but did not create the actuality of evil.
 - i. Man is responsible for causing the potential of evil to become actual in the fall.
 - ii. The importance of the potential for giving meaning to the actual.
 - iii. Potentiality is not actuality.

Memory Verse:

"... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

—[Romans 3:23-26](#)

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The Ethical Question

BY WALTER DUERR

Homework:

1. What is the Christian basis for ethical standards?
2. In an evolutionary explanation of life, you have no way to separate being from doing, philosophically. Why?
3. Why is the account of the fall so important to theology?
4. What is the ethical question, and why is understanding it so important at this time?

Listening Test:

1. We all have a choice to eat from the tree of life or the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. From an evolutionary perspective, there is no such thing as cruelty.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. _____ is not actuality (or reality).
 - a. Certainty
 - b. Potentiality
 - c. Authenticity
4. Finiteness and differentness describe the _____ of man. Nobleness and cruelty describe the _____ of man.
 - a. being / doing
 - b. immortality / mortality
 - c. existence / fallenness

GoLife100 | Lesson 22

Worldview in a Nutshell: The Three Root Presuppositions

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER



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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?

GoLife100 | Lesson 22

Worldview in a Nutshell: The Three Root Presuppositions

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER

I. What is worldview, and why is it important?

“Worldview” definition: *the assumptions (or presuppositions) we make that determine our view of reality*

A. Everyone has a worldview whether they recognize it or not (see Matthew 7:24-27).

B. Getting to the heart of the matter:

1. The mind justifies what the heart has chosen.
2. The goal of presuppositional thinking is to reach the heart level.

Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools. —Romans 1:21-22

C. As we live our lives, we make decisions based on our underlying presuppositions—consciously or unconsciously. These choices affect our life and our lifestyle.

1. Convincing takes place at the head level and cannot produce lasting change.
2. Conviction takes place at the heart level and paves the way for genuine transformation (John 16:8-15).
3. We must learn to work with the Holy Spirit in the process of conviction. There’s a parallel in the distinction between “convincing” and “conviction,” similar to the difference between “knowing” and “being known.”

D. Everyone puts their faith in something. The question is not, “Are you living by Faith?”, but rather, “By what faith?” (Examples of presuppositional bias can be seen in the media, social media, in conversations with others, in legislation, etc.)

We must learn to ask questions that address the underlying assumptions.

II. The three root presuppositions concerning the nature of GOD, MAN, and TRUTH (asking the right questions):

A. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of GOD:

1. *Is He or isn't He?*
2. *What is He like?*

B. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of MAN:

1. *Is man basically good or fallen?*
2. *Where does he get his value from?*
3. *Does he have purpose?*
4. *What is he made of (body/soul/spirit)?*

C. Basic presuppositional questions about the nature of TRUTH:

1. *Objective or subjective?*
2. *Relative or absolute?*
3. *Knowable or unknowable?*

III. The worldview journey:

- A. We begin our journey as those who are influenced (the lens of fallen human nature). Most people never move beyond being influenced.
- B. When we are intercepted by the Gospel, the lens of fallenness is replaced with the lens of Christ—we are not dualists!
- C. We must then move into integration—learning *how* to think (not *what* to think).
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. —Romans 12:2
- D. Lastly, we become an influencer. We are to be the influencers, not the influenced.

IV. Worldview is a process of perspective:

- A. Do you understand non-biblical worldviews?
- B. Leaders know what they believe and why they believe it, and they know what they don't believe and why they don't believe it. When we truly own our beliefs, this helps guard us from deception.

V. The war for worldview: Worldview is fought on three levels:

- A. The presuppositional: starts with the heart (personal)
- B. The evidential: starts with the mind (institutional)
- C. The applicational: starts with actions (cultural)

When you reach someone's heart, you help make a path for the Holy Spirit to work.

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](#)

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Worldview in a Nutshell: The Three Root Presuppositions

BY KATHERINE GALLAGHER

Homework:

- 1. Why do you suppose the majority of Christians have not been taught how to think presuppositionally?**
- 2. In your own words, explain the difference between convincing and conviction.**
- 3. 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. You automatically receive a clear Christian worldview when you get saved.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 3. _____ takes place at the heart level.**
 - a. Discipline
 - b. Determination
 - c. Conviction

GoLife100 | Lesson 23

The Nature of God

BY DON WALKER



THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the root presuppositions of the Christian worldview surrounding the nature of God and how those presuppositions should impact the way we think and live.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE what we believe about the nature of God will affect every aspect of our lives including our disposition, paradigms, and actions.



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CASE STUDY:

You are having lunch with an unbeliever. You decide to say a short, silent, and discreet prayer for your meal. Your friend notices and comments, “You know, prayer is one thing I just can’t figure out. Why do people pray? Why do they feel like something actually happened because they have talked to themselves or thought something? And craziest of all, where do people get the nerve to say that God told them something when they prayed?”

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How would you answer your friend’s three questions?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you talk about the nature of God in your answer?

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The Nature of God

BY DON WALKER

I. The importance of building a Christian worldview ([Romans 12:2](#)):

- A. The world system is always seeking to squeeze us into its mold.
- B. Be transformed in your innermost nature by the renewing of your mind.

II. God is sovereign:

- A. God is “free” to act.
- B. Jesus has all authority ([Matthew 28:18](#)).
- C. God has delegated all other authority for the furthering of His purposes.

Define a Term:

REVEAL *To disclose; to discover; to show; to make known something before unknown or concealed; to disclose, discover or make known from heaven; (Webster's 1828)*

III. God is purposeful:

- A. Teleology: The study of the end.
- B. [2 Timothy 1:9](#):
 - 1. All that He has created was created by design for a specific purpose.
 - 2. Nothing can keep God from accomplishing what He has ultimately purposed.

IV. God is relational:

- A. God has chosen to accomplish His purposes relationally through man.
- B. God desires genuine relationship with man.
- C. Prayer is a vehicle God has chosen to get man involved relationally in His purposes.

V. God has chosen to reveal Himself to man:

- A. It is possible to know God intimately.
- B. It is possible for us to know God's purposes ([Hebrews 1:1-2](#)).
- C. God has revealed Himself to man through:
 - 1. General revelation ([Romans 1:18-23](#)).
 - a. Creation
 - b. Conscience
 - 2. Specific revelation of God through Scriptures.
 - 3. Other ways God has revealed Himself:

- a. History.
- b. Others such as prophets and redeemed community.
- c. Signs, wonders, and miracles.

VI. Practical application of how we perceive the nature of God affecting the way we live:

A. Marriage:

- 1. The desire for marriage that God places into a heart is purposeful.
- 2. I can trust God and His power to bring about my marriage.
- 3. It is God's nature to reveal, and I can trust Him to get my attention and reveal whom His choice for me to marry is.
- 4. God desires that I work with Him in preparing myself for marriage in prayer and in my character, gifts, talents, and stewardship.

B. Work:

- 1. God has created us with purpose, and there is something significant for us to put our energy into doing.
- 2. God will be faithful to reveal to me what He would like me to do.
- 3. We need to line ourselves up with God's purpose and destiny for our lives.

C. Bringing justice to our communities ([Matthew 22:34-40](#)):

- 1. Our relationship with God is tied in with our relationship to others.
- 2. God wants to reveal His heart to humanity through the covenant community, His Church.

God wants us to be the people who have answers.

VII. Other recommended resources on this subject:

- A. [The Attributes of God, Volume 1 & Volume 2](#) by A. W. Tozier
- B. [The Knowledge of the Holy](#), by A. W. Tozier
- C. [Knowing God](#), by J. I. Packer
- D. [Desiring God](#), by John Piper

Memory Verse:

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;"

—[Hebrews 1:1-2](#)

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The Nature of God

BY DON WALKER

Homework:

1. What is an area in your life where you have had to really rest in your belief about the nature of God in the face of difficult circumstances?
2. Knowing that God is, by nature, one who reveals Himself, how does this equip you to address popular questions about the goodness and justice of God (think “tribes in forest who never heard of God,” etc.)?
3. How does the way that Christians relate to authority in their lives reflect their true presuppositions about the sovereignty of God?
4. What is a characteristic of the nature of God (not mentioned in this teaching) that is particularly important to you?

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Listening Test:

1. **Work is a result of sin and the fall.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. **Teleology and history are basically the same thing.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. **You will not get _____ without cooperation with the Lord.**
 - a. your destiny
 - b. to heaven
 - c. love
4. **_____ can keep God from doing what He has chosen to do.**
 - a. Sin
 - b. Satan
 - c. Nothing

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The Nature of Man

BY DON WALKER



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the root presuppositions of the Christian worldview surrounding the nature of man and how those presuppositions should impact the way we think and live.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE what we believe about the nature of man will affect every aspect of our lives including our disposition, paradigms, and actions.

CASE STUDY:

Your pastor has asked you to review a Sunday-school curriculum that a parent has submitted to him for use in your fellowship, and to provide him with input on the curriculum and a recommendation regarding its use. As you begin your review of the materials titled, "Discovering the Truth Inside You," you are impressed by the way it is put together and the entertaining and challenging activities it contains. The premise of the curriculum is to teach young people to look inside their hearts and find the truth as they go through life.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What input and recommendation would you give your pastor?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What would you share with the parent who recommended the curriculum?

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The Nature of Man

BY DON WALKER

I. Basic assumptions of a Christian worldview:

- A. The Bible does not need to be proven true.
 - 1. Man's problem is not a lack of evidence that the Bible is true, but rather his rebellion against God.
 - 2. The Bible must be the standard by which we measure all things to determine their correctness.
- B. We must have a "whole" Bible from which we draw truth.
 - 1. Our appreciation of the Bible should start in Genesis and end in Revelation.
 - 2. We must approach the Bible with the premise of continuity.
- C. Man's basic choices are limited.
- D. The mind of man was corrupted by the fall, and unless he has been regenerated, he does not have the ability to think or reason properly.
- E. It is because of man's fallenness that man seeks to conform truth to his desires rather than conforming his desires to the truth.

Define a Term:

NIHILISM *the denial of the existence of any basis for knowledge or truth; the general rejection of customary beliefs in morality, religion, etc.; the belief that there is no meaning or purpose in existence. (Webster's 1828)*

II. Aspects of the nature of man as revealed in the Bible:

- A. Man is created in the image of God ([Psalm 8:4-5](#), [Genesis 1:26-28](#)).
 - 1. Seven aspects that show man was created by God:
 - a. Man, like God, is a spiritual being.
 - b. Man is immortal.
 - c. Just as God is a Creator, man is a creator.
 - d. Man can think and reason, thus the ability to make decisions and, therefore, experience limited freedom.
 - e. Man was created as good.
 - f. Man was created by God to have authority over creation.
 - g. Man is like God in the complexity and range of emotions he can experience.

**Man is not
in need of
rehabilitation.
He needs
regeneration.**

2. Man is different from the rest of creation because God made him to bear His image.
3. Man has significant value apart from anything that he does or does not do.
4. Man is not capable of knowing who he really is or what he was created for, apart from revelation from God.
5. Every unique trait we have as individuals points to a specific aspect of the nature of God.

B. Man is fallen:

1. Man is not basically good, rather he is basically corrupt ([Romans 3:9-12](#); [3:23](#)).
2. The etymology of the word, “sin,” draws upon an archery term describing “missing the target.”
3. Man needs a Savior.

C. Man has been given responsibility for stewarding the earth ([Psalm 115:16](#)).

1. By nature, man has a desire to shape the environment around him.
2. We will destroy the earth apart from God.

III. Examples of how understanding the nature of man impacts the way we live:

A. Education:

1. Education is an incredible tool for empowering man and honing his abilities.
2. Education is incapable of saving man or changing his basic nature.

B. Justice:

1. Many have the idea that criminals need to be rehabilitated, but regeneration is the only answer to man’s fallen condition.
2. We can have justice in our communities by obeying God’s Word regarding how we deal with crime and by looking to the Church to position people in our communities for receiving a saving revelation of Jesus Christ.

C. Freedom of Expression:

1. By nature, man desires to reveal and express who he is.
2. Man in his fallenness cannot help but express that which is perverted.
3. God has given us some basic guidelines in His Word to help us discern which types of expression are acceptable and which will not destroy creativity or originality, but rather direct them.

Memory Verse:

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.”

—[Psalm 115:16](#)

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The Nature of Man

BY DON WALKER

Homework:

1. According to the Christian worldview, what makes someone valuable as a person?
2. Explain what our culture's focus on education for prevention of "problems" and rehabilitation for correction of "problems" reveals about the prevailing view of man.
3. If our justice system cannot regenerate people, then what should its goal be?
4. What is a popular issue of debate in our culture which hinges on the nature of man that you would like to address? Why? (Example: Euthanasia)

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Listening Test:

1. Man was created morally neutral.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. God's boundaries on creative expression destroy creativity.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. God's Word is like the _____ of a river.
 - a. deepness
 - b. banks/boundaries
 - c. flow
4. _____ means to go back to your former state.
 - a. Rehabilitation
 - b. Regression
 - c. Reversal

GoLife100 | Lesson 25

The Nature of Truth

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the nature of truth from the Christian worldview. It will discuss other competing perspectives of the nature of truth, factors that affect our perception of truth, and how biblical revelation of who God is forms the foundation of our biblical beliefs about truth.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE it is necessary that we can address the needs of our culture at the root level. Understanding what the Christian worldview teaches about the nature of truth will help us do that.

CASE STUDY:

During what seems to be a very positive, open opportunity to share the Gospel with your next-door neighbor, you decide to share your testimony. At the end of your sharing, your neighbor says politely, "Well, I'm very happy for you. It sounds like you have found your truth, but that is not my truth."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you do or say next?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What question might you ask yourself to challenge your neighbor's view of truth?

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The Nature of Truth

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. Truth as described in Scripture:

- A. [John 14:6](#): Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- B. [John 14:16](#): I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;
- C. [John 14:26](#): But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

II. The nature of truth is a “root” presupposition. It fundamentally addresses how we determine what is reality:

- A. Epistemology is determined by our presuppositions—what we have put our faith in. Is it in:
 - 1. Our senses?
 - 2. Our mind?
 - 3. Revelation from God through the Holy Spirit ([1 John 2:26-27](#)).
- B. Seven influential epistemological positions:
 - 1. Science and technology (modernism): If it’s not scientifically provable, it is not true.
 - 2. Reason (rationalism): If it is not reasonable, it is not true.
 - 3. Senses (empiricism): If it is not sensible, it is not true.
 - 4. Experience (existentialism): If I can’t experience it, it is not true.
 - 5. Revelation (Christian): If God is not its source, it is not true.
 - 6. The Experts: If the experts don’t confirm it, it is not true.
 - 7. Tradition: If it is different than we have always believed, it is not true.

What would be true even if we were not there to affirm it?

III. In the Christian worldview, revelation is the standard for truth:

- A. General Revelation: God’s nature as revealed in the created order ([Romans 1](#); [Psalm 8](#); [Psalm 119](#)).
- B. Specific Revelation: Specific truth revealed by God.

IV. Other factors affecting how we learn and perceive truth:

- A. Our culture.
- B. Our disposition and calling.
- C. Our age.

V. The Greek and Christian presentations of truth:

- A. Western cultural teaching methods vs. Eastern cultural teaching methods.
- B. Distinctions between the Greek and Christian perspectives:

Your perspective changes your capacity to comprehend truth.

1. Truth is a fact (point) vs. Truth is a person (Christ).
2. What do you know about what is true? vs. Where are you in relationship to what is true?
3. Truth is a point (either/or) vs. Truth is a road (both/and).
4. Truth is static vs. Truth is alive.

Define a Term:

OBJECTIVE *belonging to the object; contained in the object; without bias or prejudice; anything being, or regarded as being, external to or independent of the mind; something objective; reality; real; actual; something aimed at or striven for* “Objective certainty, is when the proposition is true in itself;” – Watts (Webster’s 1828)

VI. The nature of truth from a Christian worldview:

- A. God is the source of all truth.
- B. God is one, therefore, there is one truth.
 1. Different dimensions of truth: subjective and objective.
 2. The difference between fact and opinion:
 - a. Wisdom discerns fact from opinion.
 - b. The principle of two witnesses to establish truth ([Deuteronomy 17:6](#); [1 John 5:8](#); [Deuteronomy 19:15](#); [Acts 15:28](#); [Deuteronomy 30:19](#); [2 Corinthians 13:1](#); [Matthew 8:16](#); [Matthew 16:19](#)).
 - c. A conclusion is the systematizing of fact and opinion.
- C. God’s subjectivity is our objectivity. His opinion is our truth.
 1. God stands outside of all that limits us, therefore, truth is objective and infinite beyond our capacity to fully comprehend it.
 2. There is one truth all creation must submit to.
 3. As created beings, no one person or one group of people can know the extensive truth ([Ephesians 3:14-18](#)).
 4. God never changes; therefore, truth is constant.
- D. God has created man with the capacity to know truth.
 1. We can’t know everything, but we can know something.
 2. Though God has provided many means of discovering truth, our ultimate standard for truth is revelation.
 - a. Revelation is dependent upon the nature and ability of the Revealer.
 - b. There are various ways God reveals truth to us. Examples: the Word, prayer, visions, others, etc.

**God’s
subjectivity
is our
objectivity.**

VII. Knowing truth in Christ is not popular, but it is powerful!

Memory Verse:

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
—[John 14:6](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 25

The Nature of Truth

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. What non-biblical, epistemological positions are you most prone towards and why?
2. Why does God seem to hide truth from people?
3. What do you think has been the biggest factor in undercutting the belief in objective truth in popular culture?
4. What part of “your truth” do you believe applies to everybody and why?

Listening Test:

1. Reason is subjective.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Our dispositions and callings affect the way we perceive truth.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. _____ philosophy has had an impact on the way we perceive truth.
 - a. Eastern
 - b. Darwinian
 - c. Greek
4. The principle of two _____ has been given to us to help us discern what is true.
 - a. witnesses
 - b. judges
 - c. in prayer

GoLife100 | Lesson 26

Practical Tools for Addressing Other Worldviews



BY DUDLEY HALL



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON how we can best discuss our beliefs with people who hold a different worldview. It will focus on how to apply specific biblical principles to the everyday situation we face.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE we must be instructed by Scripture to be equipped to share our faith with others. We must be trained how to address the prevailing worldviews of our time with the truth of the Gospel in a manner that is both relevant and uncompromising.

CASE STUDY:

After several weeks of spending time and building relationship with an unbeliever, he remarks, "I am so glad you are not like those other Christians who say that just because people don't believe what you do, they are going to hell." You have not talked with him about this and are fairly sure that his comment is a projection concerning the way you have treated him.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you say in response to his comment? What would your goal be for this conversation?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you explain why it is important what people believe?

GoLife100 | Lesson 26

Practical Tools for Addressing Other Worldviews

BY DUDLEY HALL

I. **1 Peter 3:15:** *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

II. **All people have a worldview through which they interpret their world:**

- A. Some are conscious of it.
- B. Some are not conscious of it.
- C. The example of Paul on Malta.

Define a Term:

REVELATION *The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God himself, or by his authorized agents, the prophets and apostles. That which is revealed; appropriately, the sacred truths which God has communicated to man for his instruction and direction. (Webster's 1828)*

III. **Inadequate worldviews produce unfulfilled lives:**

- A. The example of a person with a modernist worldview.
- B. Components of a good worldview:
 - 1. Consistent with itself.
 - 2. Addresses all the data.
 - 3. Satisfies the deepest longings of the heart:
 - a. To be loved unconditionally.
 - b. To make an impact beyond the temporal.
 - c. To belong to others like me.
 - d. To enjoy existence.

IV. **One's worldview is the result of a response to the revelation of God:**

- A. Everyone on the earth has had some measure of revelation of God ([Romans 1:18-24](#)).
- B. Why people look for substitute gods.

**It's not the
last word
that matters,
it's the right
word.**

V. **Proverbs 26:4-5: Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes.**

- A. [Verse 4](#): Don't enter the discussion using their presuppositions as the foundation for debate:
 - 1. Example of reason.
 - 2. Example of comfort.
 - 3. Example of tolerance.
- B. [Verse 5](#): We should confront people with the truth when given the opportunity.

VI. **Example of Paul at Mars Hill ([Acts 17:22-34](#)):**

- A. We are in a place of privilege in being able to present the truth as instruments of mercy.
- B. Paul's presentation addresses:
 - 1. The nature of God.
 - 2. The nature of truth.
 - 3. The nature of man.
 - 4. The nature of history.
 - 5. The question of suffering.
 - 6. The question of death.

Many times, the best way to make a presentation is to address the longings of the heart rather than the questions of the head.

VII. **Suggestions for presenting your worldview:**

- A. Don't try to make your worldview fit their paradigm.
- B. Tell all the truth you know and don't speculate.
 - 1. Let them know you are also learning.
 - 2. Let them know that you have chosen to respond to mystery with worship.
- C. Depend on divine support ([Isaiah 55:8-11](#)).
- D. You don't have to win the argument to win the person.

Memory Verse:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"

—[1 Peter 3:15](#)

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Practical Tools for Addressing Other Worldviews

BY DUDLEY HALL

Homework:

1. **What should your goal be when sharing the Gospel or confronting another person's worldview?**
2. **In your own words, explain what Proverbs 26:4-5 says.**
3. **What is your biggest fear when given the opportunity to share your beliefs with someone? What are you going to do to overcome that fear?**
4. **To be able to share your beliefs more effectively, what specific idea would you like further training in?**

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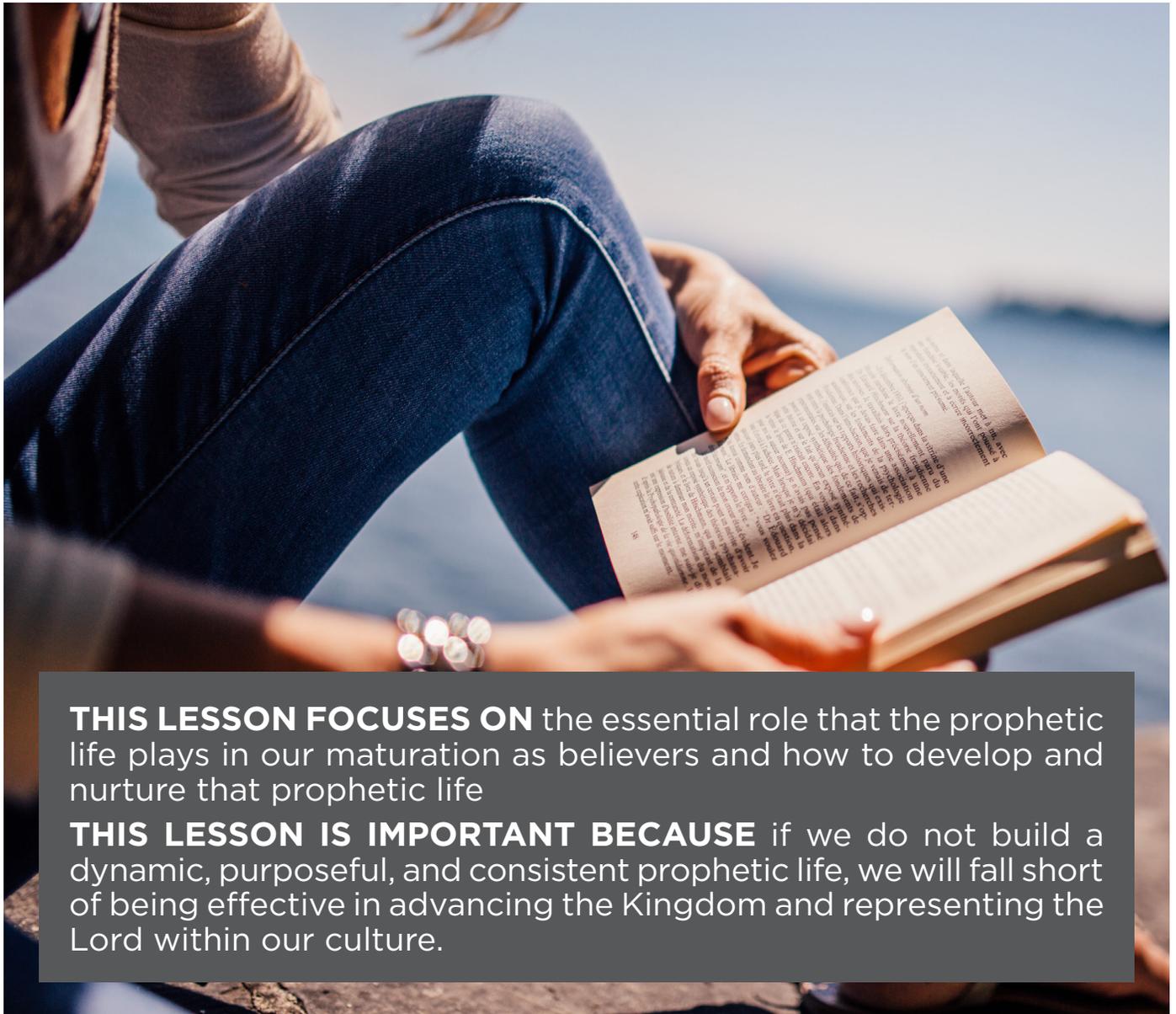
Listening Test:

1. **Everyone has a worldview.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. **If you lose a worldview argument, you have let God down.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. **It is the _____ of the Holy Spirit that brings people to truth.**
 - a. fruit
 - b. conviction
 - c. reproach
4. **If God doesn't _____, they won't _____.**
 - a. give it / get it
 - b. push people / give in
 - c. shout / hear

GoLife100 | Lesson 27

Fueling the Prophetic Life

BY DR. PATTI AMSDEN



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the essential role that the prophetic life plays in our maturation as believers and how to develop and nurture that prophetic life

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE if we do not build a dynamic, purposeful, and consistent prophetic life, we will fall short of being effective in advancing the Kingdom and representing the Lord within our culture.

CASE STUDY:

A young believer in your church is seeking to grow in God but is not sure what practical things she should do. She asks you to help her by telling her specifically what you do for devotions and how often.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How would you answer her question? Do you think your “program” for devotions would be helpful to a new believer? Why or why not?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What do you rely on to “fuel” your life in God?

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Fueling the Prophetic Life

BY DR. PATTI AMSDEN

- I. **Our Father's intention is that we would have a vibrant life as a result of God speaking to us, us speaking to Him, and us speaking for Him and representing Him.**
- A. In the beginning, Adam fellowshiped and communicated with God.
 - B. Adam sinned and was cast out of God's presence and away from God's council.
 - C. Throughout the Old Covenant, God granted access to His presence and to His council to men called prophets.
 - 1. Micaiah: [1 Kings 22:13-18](#); [1 Kings 22:19-20a](#): *Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. And the Lord said...*
 - 2. Elijah: [1 Kings 17:1b](#): *As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.*
 - 3. Jeremiah: [Jeremiah 23:21-22](#): *I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.*

Define a Term:

FUEL any matter which serves as aliment to fire; that which feeds fire; any thing that serves to feed or increase flame, heat, or excitement; to feed with combustible matter; to store with fuel or firing. (Webster's 1828)

- II. **God's will is to have more than just a few who can sit with Him, hear from Him, and speak for Him; rather, God's will is to restore all to the relationship, intimacy, and dominion assignment that Adam forfeited.**

- A. [Numbers 11:16-30](#) tells the story of Moses who functioned in a prophetic life, becoming overburdened in his care for the nation of Israel.
 - 1. God directed Moses to gather 70 leaders and God would *take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.* ([verse 17](#))
 - 2. Two men did not gather with the others and yet received the ability to prophesy. Joshua told Moses to forbid them, but Moses replied, *Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!* ([verse 29](#))
- B. The Prophet Joel in [Joel 2:28-29](#) expressed the same sentiment and promised a day when all would be allowed access to a prophetic life: *And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

**Jesus is not
someone
we add to
our life, He
is our life!**

- C. Joel's word was fulfilled at Pentecost as recorded in [Acts 2:16-18](#): *But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy."*
- D. Jesus' death paid the penalty for Adam's transgression, not only removing the death penalty that was on mankind, but also readmitting mankind back into God's presence, throne, and council room.
1. [Matthew 27:50-51](#): *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split...*
 2. [Mark 16:19](#): *So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*
 3. [Ephesians 2:5-6](#): *...even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...*
 4. The whole body of God's elect has been readmitted and may have a vibrant life with God speaking to us, us speaking to Him, and us speaking for and representing the Lord.

To "re-present" someone accurately, you must have intimate knowledge of them.

III. Practicing the presence of God matures us by aligning our hearts with the heart of God and opening our minds to His purposes, thus enabling us to accomplish His will in the earth.

- A. A devotional life is not ritualistic practices; rather, it is presenting ourselves before the Lord until we receive from Him that which we need to represent Him.
- B. [Isaiah 40:31](#): *But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Wait means to bind together by twisting)*
- C. The prophetic life is a life of representation wherein the word and the will of God become incarnate in our flesh.
- D. In the prophetic life, that which is seen and heard in God's presence is acted upon in the earth by faith.
- E. The prophetic life carries the power, presence, and atmosphere of heaven into the arena of human activity.

Memory Verse:

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

—Acts 2:16-18

GoLife100 | Lesson 27

Fueling the Prophetic Life

BY DR. PATTI AMSDEN

Homework:

1. Why is a strong devotional life so important in helping us become a prophetic voice to our generation?
2. What is significant about the charge given to the priests in the Old Testament, as it relates to our daily devotions?
3. What most impacted you about this message, and how will you respond to what you have heard?
4. Why must we continue to grow and stretch in our capacity for an intimate devotional life?

Listening Test:

1. You need _____ because you have no intention of remaining static.
 - a. intention
 - b. fuel
 - c. discipline
2. Be careful you do not _____ away.
 - a. fall
 - b. drift
 - c. run
3. We all experience spiritual _____.
 - a. hunger pains
 - b. blindness
 - c. awakening
4. The word, “_____,” means “to bind together by twisting.”
 - a. yoke
 - b. gird
 - c. wait

GoLife100 | Lesson 28

Our Corporate Calling

BY ADAM PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the corporate expression of the Body of Christ that God is committed to seeing established on the earth.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE for our Christian worldview to truly reflect Christ, we must not just know His thoughts, we must carry His heart. God's heart is for a people to bear His name.

CASE STUDY:

A friend of yours is considering leaving the church because the pastor "does not appreciate her gifting."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What advice would you give her and why? What would you tell her concerning the effect her leaving would have on the body?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you challenge your friend with God's priority for having a people to express His glory?

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Our Corporate Calling

BY ADAM PEACOCKE

I. God's ultimate plan has always been to be glorified in His people (Numbers 14:11-20).

A. As individuals, we have the potential to change the world, but it takes the people of God to fill the earth with His glory.

II. God's individual destiny for us is always designed to fit into the larger context of what He desires to do in His people.

A. *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. —Luke 1:15-17*

B. The story of Esther 4:13-14

C. *But you are the body of Christ, and members in particular. —I Corinthians 12:27*

Define a Term:

CORPORATE *United in a body, or community, as a number of individuals, who are empowered to transact business as an individual; formed into a body; as a corporate assembly, or society; united; general; collectively one. (Webster's 1828)*

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III. Jesus was crucified, died, and was resurrected for a people.

A. The Lordship of Christ versus the Kingship of Christ: The primary authority relationship for a lord is with the individual they are lord of. The primary authority relationship for a king is between a king and a people. It is through a people that a king is glorified (Proverbs 14:28).

B. Jesus was crucified as King:

Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

—John 19:19-20

God destined you individually to do something that contributes to what He wants to do corporately.

IV. Why is a corporate expression so important?

A. Two questions after the Fall:

1. *Where are you?* (Genesis 3:9)

2. *Where is your brother?* (Genesis 4:9)

B. The two-fold expression of the Great Commandment:

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." —Matthew 22:34-40

C. It is only through a people that the whole Gospel can be demonstrated.

D. It is not about just about reconciling an individual to Christ but about reconciling the world to Christ; Jesus is the centering point.

V. Implications of beginning to think corporately:

A. Government and authority in the context of community (Ephesians 4:11-12)

B. Roles and division of labor—appreciating the ministry of all believers

C. A new vision of success: corporate goals, broader prayer, and appreciation for others.

D. Reading the Word from a corporate perspective; the majority of Scripture was meant to be read through the lens of community first, individuality second.

**Who we are
together is
more than the
sum of the
individuals
gathered.**

Memory Verse:

But I am the Lord your God, Who divided the sea whose waves roared—The Lord of hosts is His name. And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of my hand, That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, "You are My people."

—Isaiah 51:15-16

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Our Corporate Calling

BY ADAM PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. Why are we so much more powerful as a united, local church?
2. What are some of the differences between the Lordship of Christ and the Kingship of Christ?
3. God could have chosen anything to be written over His Son's head at the cross. Why do you think He chose "King?"

Listening Test:

1. Our individual destinies are only partly related.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. The plot of the evil one has always been to go after individuals.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. You are first _____ and then _____.
 - a. individuals; the body of Christ
 - b. the body of Christ; members in particular
 - c. Christians; the church

GoLife100 | Lesson 29

The Power of the Law and Mediating Grace

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES

ON the place of the Law and mediating grace in the life of a believer. It will detail the specific nature of the Law and mediating grace and how we as believers have been given a pattern in the Scriptures for responding to them.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT

BECAUSE the Law and mediating grace are gifts to us from God which, as we properly respond to them, will help form God's nature in us. Becoming a prophetic voice to your generation requires that you live an exemplary life which demonstrates the way people should respond to God.

CASE STUDY:

You get into a discussion with a member of your church who is considering leaving. He explains, "I feel like the leadership in the church does not love me for who I am. Instead, it seems they are always trying to encourage me to change."

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

How should you respond in this situation? What does this man's statement show about the way he sees God?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Does a loving God want to change us? Why?

GoLife100 | Lesson 29

The Power of the Law and Mediating Grace

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. God desires to grow us up.

II. How God uses His Law/Word as a tool to bring us to maturity:

- A. The Law was never intended to save us and has nothing to do with our salvation.
- B. The nature of the Law as revealed in Scripture: [Galatians 3:23-24](#); [Psalm 19:7-12](#); [Psalm 119](#); [Matthew 24:12](#); [Matthew 5:17-19](#); [1 Timothy 1:8-10](#); [Romans 7:7-14](#)
- C. God uses the Law in the believer's life to show us where Christ is not yet formed in our lives.
 - 1. "Please stay off the grass."
 - 2. Until the standard is established, we are unaware of hidden things in us that the Bible calls sin.
 - 3. "I'll meet you at McDonald's at about noon."
 - a. Agreements bring out our character.
 - b. How we handle our agreements determines our level of relationship.
 - c. When trust is broken, love begins to die.
 - d. Why people use "round words"
 - e. The role of the Holy Spirit in empowering us to fulfill agreements.
- D. The importance of agreements in the work of the Body of Christ on earth.

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Define a Term:

MATURITY: Ripeness; a state of perfection or completeness. (Webster's 1828)

III. How God uses mediating grace in the believer's life as a tool to bring us to maturity:

- A. Mediating grace as revealed in scripture: [1 Timothy 2:5](#); [Galatians 3:19](#); [Hebrews 8:6](#)
- B. Mediating grace defined:
 - 1. Mediator: A bridge or go-between; somebody or something which connects two parties.
 - 2. Grace:
 - a. Old Testament: God turning His face towards you.
 - b. New Testament: Unmerited favor; the enabling power of God.
 - c. The Holy Spirit gives us access to the grace of God.

The nature of your relationship with God is revealed in the way you relate to His mediators.

- C. God's pattern for mediators:
 - 1. God the Father sent Jesus as His mediator.
 - 2. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as His mediator.
 - 3. Jesus sends men as His mediators ([Ephesians 4:8-13](#)).
- D. God matures His people through mediating grace:
 - 1. Building community through mutual need.
 - 2. The example of marriage.
 - 3. [Ephesians 3:14-19](#)
 - 4. [1 John 4:19-20](#)
 - 5. [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Love runs
on rails.

IV. The Law is a school master that brings us to our need for a mediator.

Memory Verse:

"Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

—[Galatians 3:24-25](#)

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The Power of the Law and Mediating Grace

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. How is God using the Law in your life to show you an area where Christ is not yet formed?
2. Identify a need in your life where God is using someone as a mediator to help you.
3. Why do you think so many people misunderstand the role of the Law in the believer's life?
4. Why is understanding the concept of mediating grace so important to bringing stronger community within the Body of Christ?

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Listening Test:

1. The Law was originally intended to save us.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Round words are a gift of God to us.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. _____ runs on rails.
 - a. Our spiritual path
 - b. Love
 - c. Trains
4. Grace is _____ favor—the enabling power of God.
 - a. earned
 - b. occasional
 - c. unmerited

GoLife100 | Lesson 30

The Five Spheres of Government

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the biblical purpose of government and its example in the God-head. It will examine the five spheres of government and discuss the role each area of government must play in the discipling of a nation.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE I must understand the role of government in all its God-ordained spheres and be working to have them functioning in my life as God intended.

CASE STUDY:

Your uncle, a city planner, is frustrated by the poor voter turnout in his local fellowship during the recent election. "I would love to meet a pastor or any Christian who could explain to me what the Bible teaches about public policy. Are there Christians who can give me a biblical view of taxation beyond simply stating, 'Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's?'" (Matthew 22:21)

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you say to your uncle? What further insight could you give to your uncle regarding Jesus' famous statement?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

What should the fruit of biblical taxation produce in a nation?

GoLife100 | Lesson 30

The Five Spheres of Government

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. All government resides in God:

- A. Jesus Christ is the center point of all government under God ([Colossians 1:15-19](#)).
- B. Government: The lines of authority established by God which give us the ability to fulfill our destiny in an orderly fashion.
- C. The Trinity is our governmental model for everything we do and build:
 - 1. Lines of authority.
 - 2. Division of labor.
 - 3. Function.
 - 4. Separated powers ([Ephesians 4:8-16](#)).

Government gives us the ability to fulfill our destiny.

II. God's government, rightly applied, produces life while poor government produces poverty:

- A. The result of good government manifests in life, prosperity, effectiveness, vision, generational increase, justice, and freedom.
- B. The result of bad government produces tyranny, oppression, and apathy.
- C. The relationship between government and peace: [Isaiah 9:6-7](#).

III. God's examples to us of submission to God-ordained government:

- A. Jesus is submitted to the Father's government ([1 Corinthians 11:1-3](#); [John 14:28](#); [Philippians 2:1-11](#)).
- B. The submission of the Holy Spirit ([John 14:26](#); [John 16:7](#)).
- C. Jesus and John the Baptist.

IV. The separation of power through government structures (the five spheres of government):

- A. Three major structures of government as revealed in Scripture:
 - 1. Family government.
 - 2. Church government.
 - 3. Civil government.
- B. As revealed in the Bible, two additional spheres of government which must be

Define a Term:

GOVERNMENT *the exercise of authority; direction and restraint exercised over the actions of men in communities, societies or states; the administration of public affairs, according to established... laws; an empire, kingdom or state; any territory over which the right of sovereignty is extended; the right of governing or administering the laws; executive power; regulation; control. (Webster's 1828)*

understood to effectively disciple a nation:

1. Self-government.
 2. Commercial government.
- C. Five spheres of government explained:
1. Self-government:
 - a. Freedom begins with self-government under God.
 - b. Self-government allows us to succeed.
 - c. Your spirit is to be in authority within the sphere of self-government.
 2. Family government:
 - a. The husband is to be in authority within the sphere of family government.
 - b. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
 3. Church government:
 - a. Apostles and prophets are to be the authority within the sphere of church government.
 - b. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.
 4. Civil government:
 - a. Biblically detailed in the old testament.
 - b. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.
 5. Commercial government:
 - a. Commercial government within our modern law base.
 - b. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and social maturity.

**A nation
is built by
people who
are self-
governing
under God.**

V. Tyranny within the five spheres of government:

- A. Tyranny: When one sphere of government superimposes its authority on another sphere and limits that sphere's ability to function.
- B. Tyranny in history between the spheres of government.

VI. Five principles for discipling a nation:

- A. Freedom begins with self-government under God.
- B. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
- C. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.
- D. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
- E. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.

VII. The vision of jurisdictional problem solving.

Memory Verse:

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves."

—[Romans 13:1-2](#)

GoLife100 | Lesson 30

The Five Spheres of Government

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. What is the best model we have of a healthy and functioning government? Explain.
2. Why do you think so many Christians have such a negative view of government and authority?
3. What is an example from your life where government rightly applied helped you in fulfilling something God desired for you to do or experience?
4. Why is it necessary for Christians to know about the specifics of biblical teachings on principles of taxation in order to disciple a nation?

Listening Test:

1. Government allows us to have an increased ability to fulfill our destiny.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Government clarifies your _____ assignment.
 - a. lane
 - b. evangelism
 - c. devotional
3. _____ can be defined as, “He who decides.”
 - a. Judge
 - b. Leader
 - c. Father
4. All good government functions in _____.
 - a. democracy
 - b. council
 - c. bureaucracy

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Righteousness and Consciousness

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES

ON the biblical distinctives between righteousness and consciousness and presents specific suggestions for ways we can grow as disciples.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT

BECAUSE we should do all that we are able to encourage how the message we carry is received without changing the message itself.

CASE STUDY:

Someone in your church believes God has told them to run for mayor. They have asked you to help them on their campaign. You are fairly certain, based upon what you know about their lifestyle and leadership skills, that although they know a lot of biblical principles concerning the role of civil government, they would not necessarily do a good job as mayor.

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

What would you tell them concerning their request? What is your justification for this position?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Did you give importance to consciousness issues when considering your response?

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- I. **Primary Texts:** [1 Corinthians 1:29-30](#); [Ephesians 2:8-10](#); [4:21-24](#); [Philippians 2:12-13](#).
- II. **Righteousness is my standing before God, either in myself or in the work on my behalf Christ has done for me** ([1 Corinthians 1:29-30](#); [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)).
- III. **The walk of faith is to understand my total reliance upon God for what He is to me and to believe Him and accept what He declares to be true about me and what He has done for me.**

Define a Term:

CONSCIOUSNESS *The knowledge of sensations and mental operations or actions, or of what passes in one's own mind; the act of the mind which makes known an internal object; internal sense or knowledge of guilt or innocence; certain knowledge from observation or experience. (Webster's 1828)*

IV. Consciousness relates to man's responsibility to grow in Christ:

- A. Consciousness is my ability to be aware of self and others and how I choose to respond to them in terms of thoughts, practices, and actions.
- B. The walk of discipleship ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)) is the walk of increasing levels of consciousness conformed to the standards of God's word as guided by the Holy Spirit.

V. Critical distinctives between righteousness and consciousness:

- A. Righteousness ([1 Corinthians 1:29-30](#); [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)):
 - 1. The result of Christ's work for me.
 - 2. My legal standing before God.
 - 3. The issue of living in God's presence or outside of it (salvation).
 - 4. God's divinity and extension of His life to me.
 - 5. Who I am in God (completion). "Complete in Christ" ([Colossians 2:10](#)).
- B. Consciousness ([Ephesians 4:21-24](#); [Philippians 2:12-13](#)):
 - 1. The process of Christ's work in me.
 - 2. My place of reward before God ([1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#)).

Jesus Christ is the most fully conscious human being who has ever lived.

3. The determining factor of the quality of my life, joy, understanding of God, self, and others.
 4. My humanity and the Holy Spirit's work within me (sanctification).
 5. Who I am in self (maturation). "Growing in Christ" ([Ephesians 4:16](#)).
- C. Some challenges of the distinctives between righteousness and consciousness relative to external evangelism:
1. Most Christians don't understand the distinctives between righteousness and consciousness clearly, if at all. As a result, they focus on righteousness and are very "untogether" in terms of their consciousness and its effect on people.
 2. Because the unsaved cannot relate to righteousness, they are looking at and judging Christians out of the paradigm of consciousness.
 - a. Not being conscious can undercut our witness.
 - b. The example of Paul.

VI. Four different areas or attributes of spiritual consciousness or "Discipleship I.Q.":

- A. Physical I.Q.:
 1. Deals with our body in terms of its care and graces.
 2. Also deals with discerning the "language" our body speaks and learning to both interpret and train it.
- B. Self I.Q.:
 1. Deals primarily with the ability to see and be in touch with oneself.
 2. Within this category fall our emotions, goals, habits, etc.
- C. Relational I.Q.:
 1. Deals primarily with our people skills.
 2. Within this category fall our social deportment skills.
- D. Knowledge and Facts I.Q.:
 1. Deals with what we "know," i.e. have been taught or read.
 2. This is only one-fourth of our I.Q., yet is usually viewed as the whole of it.

Because of the Holy Spirit, we have an incredible advantage in the realm of consciousness.

Memory Verse:

"...that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

—[1 Corinthians 1:29-31](#)

VII. Diagram One: The role of the Spirit in the progressive maturation of consciousness

Texts: [1 Corinthians 2:6-3:1](#); [James 3:14-18](#).

DIAGRAM 1:

GOD

UNSAVED

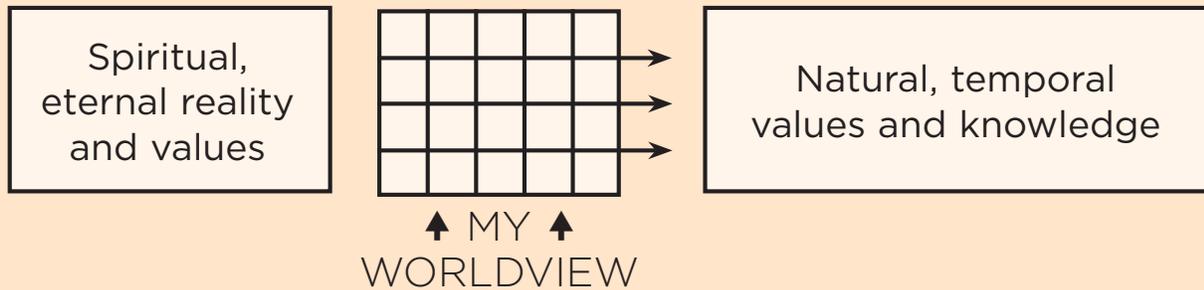
(SIN)

MAN

- A wall of separation outside of Christ
- Consciousness limited to body & soul
- “Spiritual things” are soul-knowledge-related or demonic ([Ephesians 2:1-5](#), [Colossians 2:13](#)).

SAVED

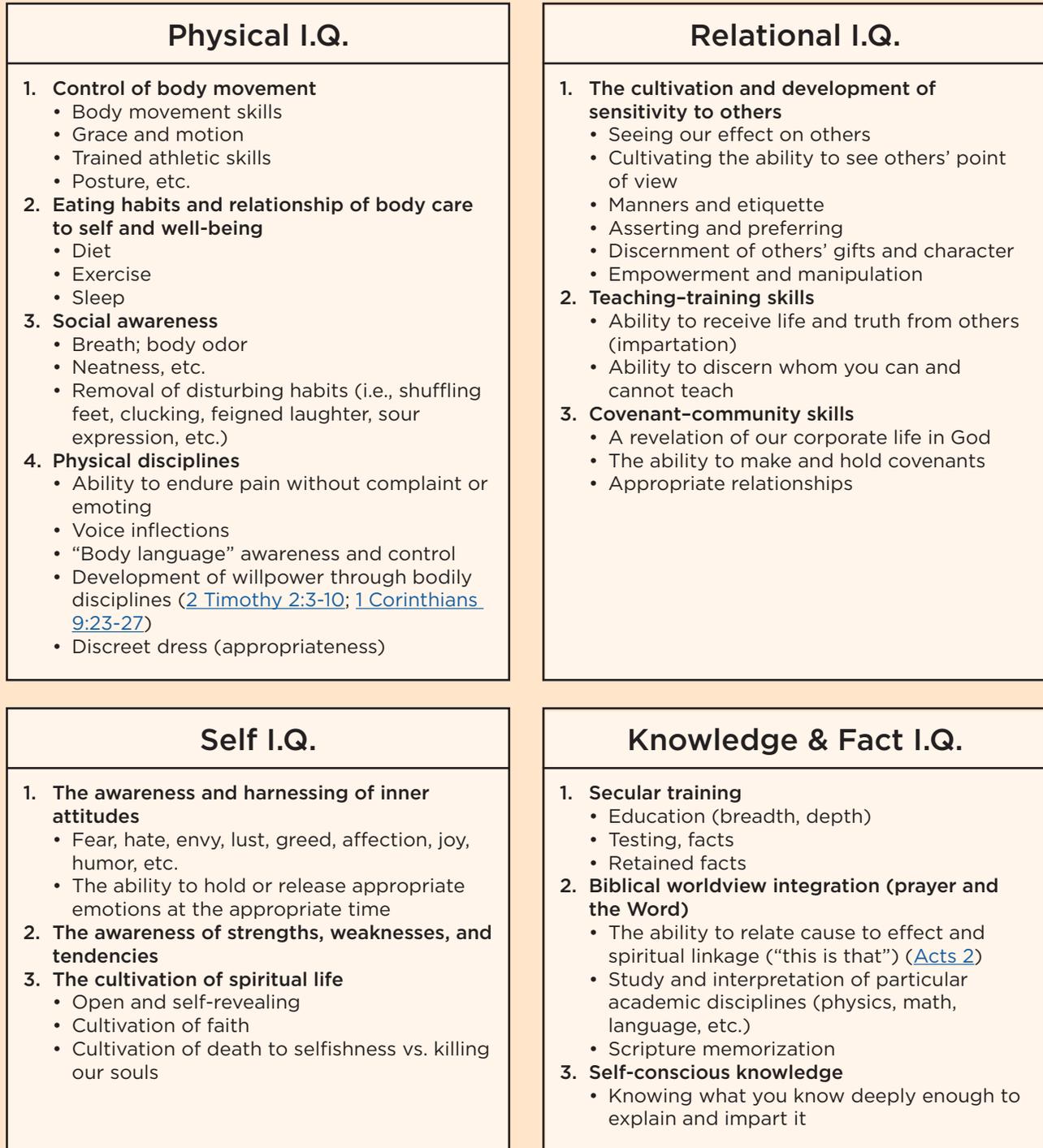
- A “spiritual person” is one measuring and training their four I.Q.s by the wisdom of God through His word in the Spirit.
- God’s Spirit communes with our spirit ([John 14:16-17](#); [16:7-15](#); [3:3-5](#))



VIII. Diagram Two: An aid for leaders-in-training for development in the Four Areas of Consciousness I.Q.:

DIAGRAM 2:

The Four Areas of Consciousness I.Q.



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Righteousness and Consciousness

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

Homework:

1. How might a sensitivity to consciousness change some of our traditional evangelism methods?
2. In your opinion, why have Christians on the whole not focused more on maturing in consciousness?
3. What is an area in your life where you want to become self-conscious of what you know so you can successfully teach someone else?
4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us mature in consciousness?

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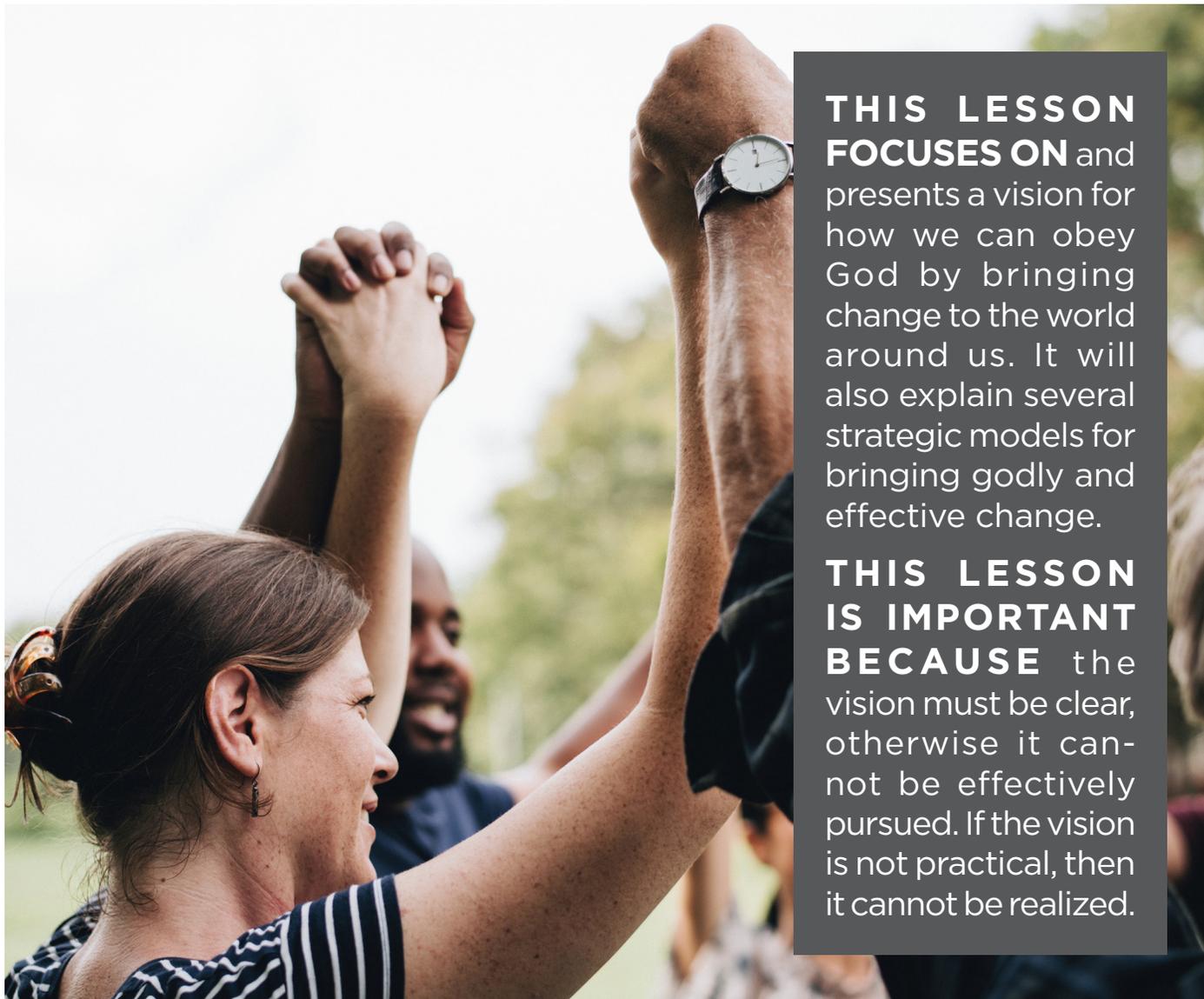
Listening Test:

1. You can grow in your righteousness before the Father.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Being found righteous in Christ is the end of our journey as disciples.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. We can give the world an example of what living in Christ looks like.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. The four I.Q.s are _____, _____, _____, and _____.
 - a. physical, self, relational, knowledge/facts
 - b. interpersonal, intrapersonal, existential, metaphysical
 - c. natural, logical, spatial, kinesthetic

GoLife100 | Lesson 32

Our Prophetic Work and the Vision for Strategic Living

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON and presents a vision for how we can obey God by bringing change to the world around us. It will also explain several strategic models for bringing godly and effective change.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE the vision must be clear, otherwise it cannot be effectively pursued. If the vision is not practical, then it cannot be realized.

CASE STUDY:

Your pastor gives you the following assignment: “Describe what your general strategy would be if you were responsible to lead a team of believers to a particular nation to fulfill The Great Commission as stated in [Matthew 28:18-20](#).”

CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:

In a few sentences, what would your strategy be?

MAKE YOUR CASE:

Was suffering a conscious part of your strategy?

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Our Prophetic Work and the Vision for Strategic Living

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE

I. The prophetic vision of Isaiah: [Isaiah 58:12](#); [Isaiah 60:1-2](#).

II. The question of transformation: How do we experience change?

- A. The world's answers and various approaches to transformation.
- B. God's answer and approach to transformation.
 - 1. Important tools in our own personal transformation:
 - a. The Word.
 - b. God-ordained authority.
 - c. Suffering.
 - d. Work.
 - e. Miraculous intervention.
 - 2. Three strategic objectives for Kingdom men and women who want to bring transformation to the world:
 - a. Bringing redemption to fallen individuals.
 - b. Bringing redemption to God-ordained institutions.
 - c. Defeating principalities and the powers of darkness.

**If your vision
can be
fulfilled in
your lifetime,
then it is too
small.**

III. GoStrategic's mobilization strategy:

- A. Discern the message and get it to others.
- B. Find and train leaders.
- C. Find the coalitions and influence groups and make strategic alliances.
- D. Stimulate the formation of movements.
 - 1. Key aspects in the "convergence movement":
 - a. Concern for the next generation.
 - b. Bringing understanding to ethnic issues.
 - c. Discovering the value of everyone's labor.
 - d. Producing an alternative to the left-right political structure.

IV. GoStrategic's Five Principles for Rebuilding a Nation:

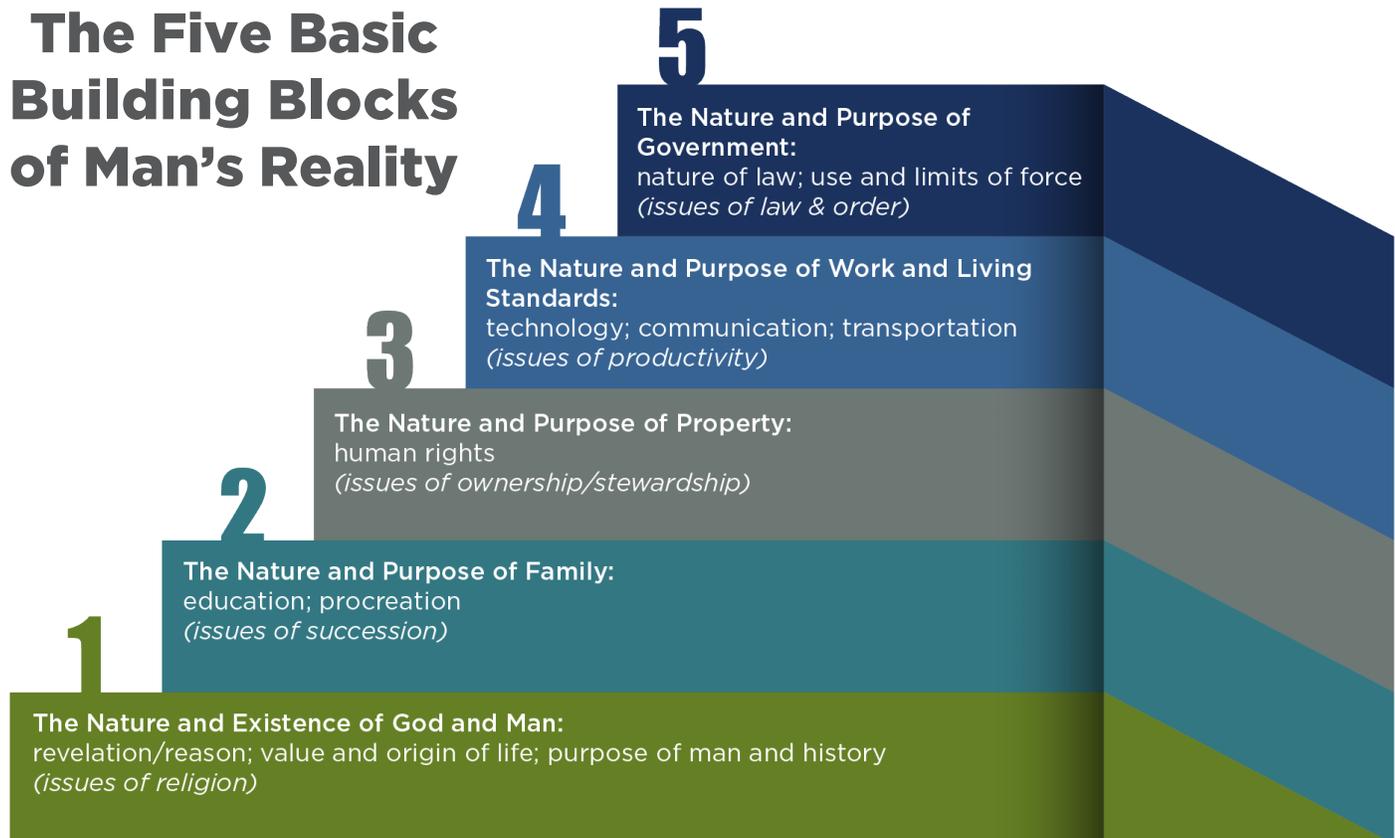
- A. Freedom begins in self-government under God.
- B. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
- C. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.
- D. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
- E. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.

Define a Term:

STRATEGIC of or having to do with strategy; characterized by sound strategy; favorable; advantageous; skill in managing or planning. (Webster's 1828)

V. Diagram One: The Five Basic Building Blocks of Man's Reality (Healthy Society):

The Five Basic Building Blocks of Man's Reality



VI. Our expectations of transformation ([Matthew 13:36-43](#)).

VII. What we hope you have gotten out of this course:

- A. A sense of biblical analysis, both internally and externally.
- B. To have begun a process of being deprogrammed.
- C. To have begun a process of transformation.
- D. Vision and faith for training as a leader at a high level of play.

**Discipline is
the cutting
away of that
which does
not belong.**

VIII. Let's serve the purposes of God in our generation!

Memory Verse:

"Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In."
—[Isaiah 58:12](#)

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Homework:

1. What is cathedral thinking?
2. What specific area of personal transformation do you feel the Holy Spirit is challenging you to embrace at this time?
3. Which of the Five Principles for Rebuilding a Nation do you feel most passionate about seeing realized and developed in your lifetime?
4. What do you believe is the most important thing you've learned during your first year of study in the School for Strategic Living?

Listening Test:

1. God plays everybody who _____.
 - a. reads the Bible
 - b. is in shape
 - c. acts spiritual
2. _____ is the cutting away of that which does not belong.
 - a. Pruning
 - b. Discipline
 - c. Worldview