

## **REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS-Unit 4: Epistemology & Sin**

- 1) Identify some of the assumptions that you have acquired from your culture and subculture which shape the way that you view the world. To what degree do you think you can become aware of such assumptions? How easy do you think it is to challenge assumptions that are deeply embedded in a culture? If you had been born into an overly racist family culture permeated by racism, do you think that you would have been more likely to accept or reject the racist values of your culture? Why or Why not?

**ANSWER:** Growing up in a household that didn't teach or barely showed affection to each other, I viewed the world, relationships with past companions as it doesn't take all of that to express love. I hold hands in public, tell each other you love them, cuddle, etc. I became aware of this while dating this young lady who took the time to break "ME" down and my mannerisms. My response to her was I was never taught this and never seen it before me growing up.

It's easy to challenge it when you're ready to confront it.

If I grew up in a racist culture/environment, I know for me I would reject those values of my culture. Only by seeing the world, appreciating different cultures, ethnicities, and learning people not based on what I was taught, their skin color or culture, but how I get to know them as an individual and not a stereotype.

- 2) The author identified numerous limitations on the accuracy of human thinking, including finitude, individual and corporate sin, and numerous psychological phenomena such as overconfidence, confirmation bias, defense mechanisms, and memory errors. What do you think are some of the most serious threats to the accuracy of human thinking? What are some ways that we can defend against these threats?

**ANSWER:** Human thinking is associated with emotions. Emotions are temporal and as Entwistle states we can often be delusional. Delusional and creating a false perception and reality of what our life truly is. A major threat for human thinking is acceptance. Acceptance of what's my fault and what's my flaw. Entwistle informed human memory is imperfect and reasoning can be flawed. Our

personal experiences prime us to think about the world in ways that influence our conclusions.

- 3) The author stated his belief that “At Best” we can humbly try to evaluate our beliefs carefully enough to arrive at a contingent certainty, that is, if our assumptions are correct, and if we discern a coherent epistemology, and if we apply our epistemic methodologies consistently, then we can tentatively certain about our conclusions. To hope for (or worse, to claim) more than that is to assert a god like quality that frail, fallen, and infinite creatures cannot attain. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

**ANSWER:** We should always be humble enough to listen and re-evaluate our beliefs . Things change, the pandemic 2020 called Covid proved to us that the world changes and every situation holds a complexity of dynamics that have to be evaluated differently. So, we can't always be so certain what we think we know due to change at ANY moment or time. Truth is God and as we seek for truth we should find it . Yes I agree, we are finite creatures but God teaches us to have faith and hope. Everything through him is attainable and everything apart from Him is not . As finite creatures we could always have a chance for change as we adjust our minds to God’s purpose and perfect timing.

- 4) How does human finitude, human frailty and human fallenness (the individual and corporate effects of sin) affect and limit the quest for knowledge?

**ANSWER:** Everyday we as humans should wake up a student and ready to learn AGAIN, due to the fact that we don't know it all. Our own world views can have a bias knowledge that is shaped through our education, most importantly the culture that we are raised in, and our education..Our knowledge is uncertain, having certainty is to say that we do not make premature choices in error when we do. That's what makes us finite and limits the quest for knowledge but not the ability to seek for truth.

- 5) Look at the argument that Rebecca used to conclude that Jimmy was demon possessed. Identify the elements of the argument (premises, inferences, and conclusion), and identify potential flaws in the premises and whether or not the argument is valid.

**ANSWER:** Below is the following Truth:

Premise: Jimmy was possessed by a demon - FALSE

Inference: Rock and Roll music is often product of demonic influence - INVALID

Conclusion: Jimmy was possessed by a demon: TRUE or FALSE

The problem with Rebecca's argument is it was based on her knowledge, beliefs instead of logical reasoning to be applied if or not Jimmy was demon possessed. Her argument is the perfect example her logic or thought contained no evidence but her preference which was flawed.

- 6) What kind of hermeneutics do you use when you read scripture? Are there specific hermeneutical principles that the author noted that you want to adopt? Are there specific hermeneutical principles that the author noted with which you disagree? Why?

**ANSWER:** The misinterpretation of Juliet's language stuck out to me. It was carelessly analyzed that led people to misapply her meaning. This is the same way how scripture reading is approached that leads to misunderstanding and misapplication within the Christian community. I personally make it a habit to adopt my ability to analyze context, demographics, cultural background and to keep in mind that language read in the text as well as other things like culture can continuously evolve with new ideas and changes. In other words, i'm open to modern revelation to an old story that still has truth.