

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

says **Who?**

1

2 **TIMOTHY 2:24-26**

The Lord's servant must gently instruct his opponents... "in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them **captive** to do his will."

2

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

Colossians 2:8

3

AN EXAMPLE OF

"**Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy**"

4

COSMOS: ASSUMPTIONS

Carl Sagan, 1981 Humanist of the Year

"The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be."

"Our contemplations of the Cosmos stir us."

"There is...a faint sensation as if a distant memory...of falling from a great height..."

5


Sagan, Carl (Producer). (1980). *Cosmos*. Los Angeles, CA: Cosmos Studios.

TAKEN CAPTIVE
the **Power** and **Danger** of
Assumptive Language

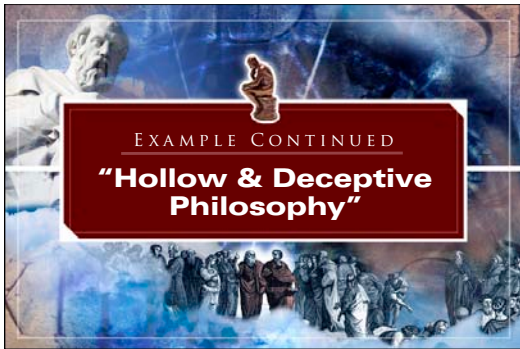
**Assumptions are the most
dangerous form of knowledge**

Assumptions are caught and bought
without an open, conscious dialogue.

If you buy a statement, you buy
its assumptions as well.



6



EXAMPLE CONTINUED

**"Hollow & Deceptive
Philosophy"**


7

COSMOS: ASSUMPTIONS

Carl Sagan, 1981 Humanist of the Year

"Some part of our being knows
this is where we came from. We
long to return and we can because
the cosmos is also within us."

"We're made of star-stuff."




8

Sagan, Carl (Producer). (1980). *Cosmos*. Los Angeles, CA:
Cosmos Studios.

"The Cosmos is
all that is, or ever was,
or ever will be."

Carl Sagan



9

Sagan, Carl (Producer). (1980). *Cosmos*. Los Angeles, CA:
Cosmos Studios.



**THE
Cosmic Cube**

10




11

AN OLDER DEFINITION

Philosophy:

“The objects of philosophy are to ascertain facts or truth, and the causes of things or their phenomena; **to enlarge our views of God and his works...**”

Noah Webster
1828 American Dictionary of the English Language



12


Webster, Noah (1828). *American Dictionary of the English Language*. San Francisco, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education (Rosalie Slater, Ed., 1967).

AN OLDER DEFINITION

Philosophy:

“True religion and true philosophy must ultimately arrive at the same principle.”

S. S. Smith
cited in Noah Webster,
American Dictionary of the English Language




13

Smith, S. S. (1828). “Philosophy.” Cited in Webster, Noah (1828). *American Dictionary of the English Language*. San Francisco, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education (Rosalie Slater, Ed., 1967).

PHILOSOPHY

“...a search for the underlying causes and principles of reality.”

Webster’s 3rd
New International Dictionary



14

Gove, Philip Babcock (Ed.). (1993). *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary*. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., Publishers.

PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

what is **existence**? what is **reality**?

what does it **mean** to exist?
how do I **know** I exist?
if I do exist, **why** do I exist?

if I **think** I exist,
where did that thought **come from**?

15

PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

what is **thinking**?
 what is **reason**?
 what is **logic**?

what is **knowing**?
 if I know **something**,
 how can I **know** that it is **real**?


what is the
meaning and **purpose** of life?

16

the philosophical
"Holy Grail"

THE UNIVERSALS

the **Particulars**



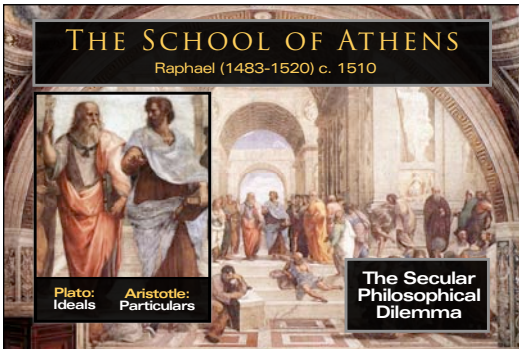
17



Sanzio, Raffaello (Raphael). (c. 1510). *The School of Athens*. Rome: The Vatican Gallery.

18

THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS
 Raphael (1483-1520) c. 1510



Plato: Ideals
 Aristotle: Particulars

The Secular Philosophical Dilemma

19

Sanzio, Raffaello (Raphael). (c. 1510). *The School of Athens*. Rome: The Vatican Gallery.

naturalism's philosophical **problem**

(give meaning to the particulars)
UNIVERSALS

gap

PARTICULARS
 (including each of us as a person)

20

naturalism's philosophical **problem**


how does one **find** the

UNIVERSALS?

why am I here?


what is the **purpose** of **life**?

is there any **meaning** to **existence**?



21

SEEKING TRUTH



He believed he could find them in mathematics, then science, then art. Ended up empty. Died a despondent, depressed man without hope... failed to find the universals of life.

Leonardo Da Vinci

22


beginning with **Universals**

universals

God's approach ↓

↑ the world's approach

particulars



23

"Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy"

- **Materialism:** matter is the only reality
- **Idealism:** ideas are the only reality
- **Empiricism:** knowledge comes from experience
- **Rationalism:** knowledge is gained by reason without experience
- **Naturalism:** true knowledge only comes from scientific study
- **Determinism:** there really is no knowledge, you only react to stimuli
- **Relativism:** there are no absolutes

24

"Hollow & Deceptive Philosophy"

- **Mentalism:** mind is the true reality and objects exist only as an aspect of the mind's awareness
- **Mechanism:** everything can be explained in terms of physical or biological causes
- **Solipsism:** self is all you need to know
- **Subjectivism:** knowledge is dependent upon and limited by your own subjective experiences
- **Intuitionism:** knowledge comes primarily from some kind of inner sense
- **Hedonism:** pleasure is good, pain is evil; if it feels good, it is
- **Etc.**

25

A slide with a dark red background. At the top left is a classical bust of a man. In the center, a small figure of a person stands on a globe. Below the globe, a group of people in historical attire is shown. The text "POSTMODERNISM" is in small white letters, and "can you Live it?" is in large white letters, with "Live" in bold.

POSTMODERNISM
can you **Live** it?

26

A slide with a dark blue background and white clouds. The word "ETHICS" is in yellow. Below it are three questions in white: "what is right?", "what is wrong?", and "who makes the rules?". A small figure of a person stands on a globe at the bottom.

ETHICS
what is **right**?
what is **wrong**?
who makes the **rules**?

27

A slide with a dark blue background and faint classical busts. The title "RIGHT OR WRONG?" is in yellow. Below it is the text "From Plato's Euthyphro" and a quote in white: "Is an act right because God wills it, or whether God wills it because he knows it is right?". A small figure of a person stands on a globe at the bottom right.

RIGHT OR WRONG?
From Plato's Euthyphro
"Is an act right because God wills it, or whether God wills it because he knows it is right?"

28

A slide with a dark blue background and faint classical busts. The title "RIGHT OR WRONG?" is in yellow. Below it is the text "William of Ockham" and a quote in white: "Whatever God wills must be done simply because He says so. If God had wanted, He could have ordered men to obey the opposite of the Ten Commandments. Even now He can rescind those laws and will their opposite." At the bottom, it says "Cited in Feinberg & Feinberg". A small figure of a person stands on a globe at the bottom right.

RIGHT OR WRONG?
William of Ockham
Whatever God wills must be done simply because He says so. If God had wanted, He could have ordered men to obey the opposite of the Ten Commandments. Even now He can rescind those laws and will their opposite.
Cited in Feinberg & Feinberg

29

A slide with a dark blue background and faint classical busts. The title "DR. WILLIAM PROVINE" is in yellow. Below it is the text "Non-assumptive" Language" and "Naturalistic Philosophy Implications" in yellow. A list of points in white: "No gods or purposive forces", "No ultimate foundation for ethics", "No free will", "No life after death", and "No ultimate meaning in life". At the bottom, it says "Debate with Phillip Johnson, Stanford University, April 30, 1994".


DR. WILLIAM PROVINE
"Non-assumptive" Language
Naturalistic Philosophy Implications
No gods or purposive forces
No ultimate foundation for ethics
No free will
No life after death
No ultimate meaning in life
Debate with Phillip Johnson, Stanford University, April 30, 1994

30

Johnson, Phillip & Provine, William (1994). *Debate at Stanford University*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University, April 30.

THE BATTLE IS REAL

"See to it that no one takes you captive..."



31

TAKEN CAPTIVE

Barna Study:
How many Americans have a **biblical worldview**?


General American population: 4%
"Born-again" American population: 9%

...and we don't **act** that **different** from the **world**...

32

"The church's **singular failure** in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview, that governs **every area of existence**."

Charles Colson
How Now Shall We Live?



33

Colson, Charles (1999). *How now shall we live?* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. p. xii.



what is **Your** worldview?

34

FORMAL WORLDVIEW

A comprehensive set of truth claims that purports to paint a picture of reality.

secular humanism postmodernism
marxism Christianity
islam naturalism

35

THE COSMIC BATTLE

36

PERSONAL WORLDVIEW

The set of individual truth claims that you have embraced so deeply that you believe they reflect what is really real, and therefore they drive what you think, how you act, and what you feel.

37

what are the **consequences**?

Buy the lies...
Conform to the world...

38

THE SOLUTION

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind...**”

Romans 12:2

39

METAMORPHOO

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your minds...”

Romans 12:2

40

METAMORPHOO

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was **transfigured** before them.

Mark 9:2

41

METAMORPHOO

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

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WHY?

WORLDVIEW STUDIES



43
