

I Sunday School

How Did We Get Here? An Introduction

Why We Need to Understand These Perspectives, Why We Need to Understand What is Happening and How We Got Here

1. So that we are not deceived.
2. So that we can guard and equip our kids.
3. Because the Church has unwittingly or wittingly bought into CTs, and at the end of the day, Critical Theories are contrary to the Gospel itself.
4. So that we can be sharpened in understanding biblical justice and true compassion.
5. So that we can identify worldview issues that undergird SJ and CT.

What is a worldview?

A set of presuppositions (may be true, partially true, false) which form the lenses through which we view life and the world around us (may be conscious, unconscious, consistent or inconsistent).

- Greg Bahnsen noted, *A worldview is a network of presuppositions which are not tested by natural science and in terms of which all experience is related and interpreted.*
- James Anderson notes, *Worldviews are like belly buttons. Everyone has one, but we don't talk about them very often. Or perhaps it would be better to say that worldviews are like cerebellums: everyone has one and we can't live without them, but not everyone knows that he has one.*

What are the basic issues which constitute a worldview?

1. What is the nature of reality (metaphysics)?
What is ultimate reality?
What is the nature of being/existence (ontology)?
2. What is the nature of the world around us (cosmology)?
3. What is the nature of man (anthropology)?
4. What is the nature of knowledge (Epistemology)?
How do we know what we know?
5. What is the nature of morality (ethics)?
6. What is the purpose of life and history (teleology)?

Biblical Epistemology

I. What is 'epistemology'? ~ Some definitions

- A. "The theory of knowledge. Its central questions include the origin of knowledge; the place of experience in generating knowledge, and the place of reason in doing so; the relationship between knowledge and certainty . . ." (Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy, 123).



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- B. “The study of knowledge: what it is, and how one gets it. From the Greek *episteme*, the term has special reference to a study of the limits and validity of knowledge. . . *The epistemological question is: ‘How do you know what you know?’*” (L. Russ Bush, *A Handbook for Christian Philosophy*, 250).

II. Identifying Epistemologies

- A. Rationalism
- B. Empiricism
- C. Relativism
- D. Subjectivism
- E. Revelational

III. Biblical Epistemology

- A. The futility of anthropocentric Epistemologies

Origin

Authority

Rom. 1:18-21; 8:6-7; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 4:17-19

- fallen man suppresses truth
- fallen man does not begin with God, he begins with self
- fallen man is not in submission to God’s authority

- B. The elements biblical epistemology (Prov. 30:1-6)
1. Acknowledgment of our inability and an outright rejection of our own sense of autonomy (1-3)
 2. Acknowledgment of the authority of God (4)
 3. Acknowledgment of utter dependence on the Word of God for all knowledge (5-6)

Conclusion

We are in an epistemological crisis. Charlie is going to talk about the roots of this in post-modern thought and “post-modernism” applied.

Almost everything today is epistemologically challenged.

