

What Do You Want to be Known For?

This is THE question I constantly ask myself. As a Christian living a public life, how do people *see* me? Each week we will consider how to live as Christians in our culture. Weekly, three, three-minute videos will provide Teaching Bursts that initiate an idea. PDFs will be provided with Scripture to read and questions to answer. People are watching us everywhere – social media included. *So, what do you want to be known for?*

Week #1 1. Where do I start? Consciously or unconsciously I begin with assumptions about life. I place my faith, trust, my confidence in these ideas. These ideas become my creeds. These beliefs, then, provide the framework for interpreting everything around me.

Video #1: “Lost in the Forest”

There is a God who exists. Francis Schaeffer’s story gives us a word picture of The God who exists. He has designed His world: we see the cabin, smoke from the chimney, a freshly baked pie, dinner on the stove.

This story teaches us both of God’s Transcendence (He is apart from, separate from His creation) and God’s Immanence (He is close to and cares for His creation. Genesis 1.1 is where we start. Christians begin with a belief that there is a God who has created His world. He is evident in everything we see around us.

Video #2 “The Hindu and the Teakettle”

Schaeffer’s teakettle story explains that we cannot just make reality in any way we would like. We know, for instance, that there is a difference between good and evil, cruelty and not being cruel.

This story teaches us about the supernatural world which is the basis for and origin of the natural world. We live in a world of design, not chaos. In Genesis, God establishes His view of the world, His interpretation of what He has made. Reality is not just what we make it, but what is.

For further study. Francis Schaeffer has impacted my life from high school to now. Consider purchasing *How to Be Your Own Selfish Pig* by his daughter Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

The Transcendence and Immanence of God

Definition “Transcendence”—God is separate and apart from His creation
“Immanence”—God is close to and cares for His creation

Why do you think these two terms need to be understood together as humans seek to understand God?

Read Nehemiah 9:6, Job 12:10, and Ephesians 4:6. How do these verses establish both God’s transcendence and immanence?

Read Acts 17:25 & 28, Colossians 1:17, and Hebrews 1:3. How do these verses establish both God’s transcendence and immanence?

What is the best historical event that establishes God’s transcendence? Why?
[Hint: think Genesis 1.1-2.3 😊]

What is the best historical event that establishes God’s immanence? Why?
[Hint: think Matthew through John 😊]

Roman and Greek mythology show the gods as they interacted with humans. However, they had moral failings, weaknesses, and petty rivalries. **Deism** portrays God as creator but who is unwilling to interact with his world now. **Pantheism** suggests that the whole universe is God without direct, distinctive interaction with humanity.

Why do you think these beliefs rejected either God’s transcendence or His immanence?

Reality: The Supernatural and Natural Worlds

Our view of supernatural and natural worlds affects our view of everything

We are accountable to the God who made us. We should then live in accordance with the way we were designed. So how we live depends on who we are. We were created from the dirt but made in God's image giving us an unequalled uniqueness. Compare a designed universe and a chance universe.

| Designed Universe | Chance Universe |
|---|---|
| God is eternal. | Matter is eternal. |
| Reality includes the supernatural. | Reality includes only the natural world. |
| Truth comes from an outside source of authority. | Truth comes from inside oneself. |
| Work has purpose. | Work is for survival. |
| Ethics have a transcendent source. | Ethics are based on power |
| The material world is good and is a gift to benefit people. | Matter is all that matters, materialism and consumerism result. |
| If justice is incomplete in this world God, the Just Judge, will have the final word. | There is no justice and so revenge is our only option. |

Look up the following verses recording what they say about God, His world, and how we are to live in this world.

Genesis 1:27-28

Genesis 2:15

Psalms 24:1

Isaiah 43:7

Isaiah 45:12

Isaiah 45:18

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Romans 1:20

Romans 1:25

1 Timothy 4:4