

What Shapes Us? Part 1: Harvard's Crest

Biblical revelation, creational revelation, human reason. The question for Christians is "Which one shapes me the most?"

Read and meditate on the following passages of Scripture.

- ALL Truth originates from God (Is 28:23-29)
- ALL truth is inclusive within His Truth (heaven and earth are His, Josh 2:11; 2 Kings 19:15; 2 Chr 2:12)
- ALL truth is God's Truth (Ps 119:152, 160)

What applications for life can you draw from the ideas within The Text?

Read the following words:

A standard for trustworthiness is not simply reliant upon abstract, propositional truth statements but upon the person who is speaking (John 8:44). It is not enough that words be accurate but the speaker herself must be a truth-teller. Diotrephes is unflatteringly contrasted with Demetrius (3 John 9-12). The former speaks untruth, disassociating himself from The Church. The latter is said to embody truth which can be confirmed by everyone within the group including the apostle John.

Why is it important that truth come in both forms: words and in person?

What Shapes Us? Part 2, Black Holes Sing

Biblical revelation explains creational revelation. All we have to do, is listen.

Read the following link: in 2003 scientists discovered a black hole sings 57 octaves below middle C

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/black-hole-sings-in-key-of-b-flat/>

Read the following statement:

The Creator designed creation to operate in a certain manner (Ps 74:16-17; Jer 33:2, 25). Rule is given to a local person or universal law which oversees planning, development, or activity in earthly relationships (Gen 1-2). Authorities are intended to serve, lifting others up (Phil 2:1-11). The source of discord in authority relationships is sin. Genesis 3:16 cites *abused authority* ("and he shall

rule over you", indicating domination) and *refused authority* ("and your desire will be for your husband", meaning the woman will attempt to usurp or control, Gen 4.7). The original intent of creation was equality, partnership and interdependence (Gen 1:26-29; 2:15-25). God's creation order gives responsibility to given authorities to place the interests of others above their own (1 Cor 11; Eph 5, 6; 1 Tim 2). The reclamation of authority relationships is possible (2 Cor 5:17-21).

Apply how God through His creation establishes laws that order our lives.

What Shapes Us? Part 3: Prepositional Power

Biblical Revelation can be understood by this powerful part of speech.

Ponder and answer the following statement:

Are words powerful? Why do words hurt? What do words say? What is the importance of understanding another's words? What is the significance of person-power-presence? Is the aphorism "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" true? What did Jesus mean in Matthew 12:33-37? Words have power based on the intention of the speaker (Psalm 33:4; 119:89, 105, 160; Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 23:29).

How would you suggest the power of words makes a difference in your life? What applications would you draw from the statements of Scripture?