**Why the University Should Matter to the Church**

Episode #2 “Permanence: Anchor in a Changing World”

Biblical | Theological | Historical | Philosophical | Practical | Example

The professor was offering not necessarily “growth,” but “acceptance” of a “progressive” mindset; meaning progress accepts all cultural changes. But to the progressive person, “progress” is only ever in one direction; change away from a fixed, conservation, preservationist POV.

Yet, “conservation” is the backbone of what is termed “the environmental movement;” it is preservatist in nature, a maintenance if not a full rewind back to nature. So, the same kind of progress desired in sexual, educational, ethnic, or economic concerns is exactly the opposite desire for the creation (Romans 1.19-25)



**Eternal = Permanent** giving a basis for ethics. Compare – Contrast beliefs. Purely human-centered view does not give a good basis for ethics. Care for the Earth is an ethical concern. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is God’s original intention (Gen 1.28, 2.5, 15). Arts & Sciences = production / protection (Gen 2.9). What science can do and can’t do.

**Opposite of Permanence**: Permanence = *telos* (end, reason), Decadence = loss of an end, objective

**Augustine of Hippo** (N Africa) *City of God* He was an Insider – Outsider. The African theologian Augustine lived in Rome. He critiqued its structural beliefs at the same time he commended its positive contributions. This is why the university should matter to The Church! We do not condemn the university as an institution; rather, from a Hebraic-Christian view, we critique its faulty assumptions and commend the good that can come from it. City of God (Permanence) vs City of Man (Decadence)

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/augustine-city-god-review/

Why complain, if God does not exist? To whom, heart, would you complain? Ever more unfrequented / your way grapples on through incomprehensible / human kind. All the more vainly perhaps for keeping to its direction, / direction toward the future, / the future that’s lost” / *Rainer Maria Rilke, “Complaint.”*

Consistency, permanence, a stability for living S = Sensible P = Practical U = Universal D = Dependable

**Eternal** The Lord Ps 102.12; God’s Glory Ps 104.31; Righteousness Ps 112.3; Faithfulness Ps 117.2; Love Ps 118.1-4; God’s Word Ps 119.89; God’s Kingdom Ps 145.13; God’s Power Rom 1.20; “What is unseen” 2 Cor 4.18; God’s Purpose Eph 3:11; Redemption Heb 9.12; Origins & Ends = the heavens & the earth, Alpha & Omega, Beginning & the End; Psalm 73, Asaph lamented powerful getting away with injustice “My foot had almost slipped until I understood their final [ETERNAL] destiny” If there is no justice here, must be there. **Ethics based on Eternal**



**Humans Need Humanities** Ethics in sciences & arts. *On the Waterfront*. Stories suggest “Shoulds”

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**“The S.P.U.D. Test” (2009)**

Is the belief sensible to what is? Is it prudent and logical? Or is the viewpoint based solely on emotion, experience, or the desire of the moment? Is the thinking true to life or do you respond, “Oh, come on!”? Words that correspond to sensibility would be validity, genuine, truthful, legitimacy, or authenticity.

*How is your idea “sensible”?*

Is the belief practical and workable in everyday life?  Can people live this way?  Or when applied to reality is the viewpoint useless and unbeneficial? Words that correspond to practicality would be realistic, pragmatic, rational, reasonable, concrete, or expediency.

*How is your idea “practical”?*

Is the belief universal for all people in all places at all times in all cultures? Has the viewpoint produced a helpful impact for people throughout history?  Or are people hurt by the ethics of the platform? Words that correspond to universality would be general, worldwide, comprehensive, or commonality.

*How is your idea “universal”?*

Is the belief dependable and consistent?  Are the ideas based on a changeless set of standards?  Or are they based on the whim of human decision? Words that correspond to dependability would be honest, standard, trustworthy, responsible, constant, continual, or reliability.

*How is your idea “dependable”?*

**Declarations: (1) There is a God, and you are not Him (2) There is sin in the world, that resides in You, (3) There is injustice in the world, only known because Justice exists (4) There is forgiveness but only with a Savior, (5) There is hope but only because there is Eternity.**