

# The Truth Project

[www.thetruthproject.org](http://www.thetruthproject.org)

# Lessons 1 & 2

- Lesson 1 – Veritology Review
- Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics Review
- What does Transformation look like?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

- Why Jesus came to earth?
- Cosmic Battle.
- What is insanity?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- For what reason did Jesus come to earth?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- For what reason did Jesus come to earth?
  - John 18:37 “Jesus answered, You are right in saying that I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - 2 Things:
    - 1) Establishes the relationship between salvation and Truth:
      - 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – “... God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the spirit and the belief in the truth.”
      - Salvation is a result of a person’s belief in the truth claims of God.

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - 1) Establishes the relationship between salvation and Truth:
  - 2) ?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - 1) Establishes the relationship between salvation and Truth:
  - **2) Jesus is claiming to be the very source and embodiment of Truth.**

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - 1) Establishes the relationship between salvation and Truth:
  - **2) Jesus is claiming to be the very source and embodiment of Truth.**
    - Jesus is making a huge metaphysical claim.
    - Believers take this for granted – but shouldn't – because it establishes the basis for a Theistic Philosophy.

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - John 14:6 “... I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.”
  - John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that was made.”

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

## “What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - John 14:6 “... I am the way, the truth, and the life...”
  - John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word...”
  - Colossians 1:15 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were create by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
  - **Colossians 2:2-4**

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is truth?”

- What did he mean by this? ( cont )
  - 1) Establishes the relationship between salvation and Truth:
  - **2) Jesus is claiming to be the very source and embodiment of Truth.**
    - **In other words, Jesus is claiming to be the ultimate reality.**
    - **What was our working definition of Truth: That which conforms to ...**
    - **Jesus therefore is the source of Truth.**

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

## “Cosmic Battle”

- What is the Cosmic Battle?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

## “Cosmic Battle”

- What is the Cosmic Battle? ( cont )
  - Reality vs illusion.
  - Spirit of Truth vs Spirit of Falsehood.
  
- Why “Cosmic” in nature?
  - Has existed since the beginning and divides the heart of every person who has ever lived.

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

## “Cosmic Battle”

- What set of relationships does the Cosmic Battle reveal?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

## “Cosmic Battle”

- What set of relationships does the Cosmic Battle reveal? ( cont )
  - Alluded to earlier with: Spirit of Truth vs Spirit of Falsehood.
  - Relationship between Truth & salvation.
  - Relationship between lies & sin.

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

“What is insanity?”

- What is insanity?

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

## “What is insanity?”

- What is insanity? ( cont )
  - Losing touch with reality.
  - Webster’s 1828 Definition of Truth: “Conforms to fact or reality.”
  - 2 examples of insanity:
    - Is 44 – Equating idols to lies – which lead to insane notions.
    - “Common Insanity” – the point where we all lose touch with reality when our actions do not harmonize with Truth ( or reality ).

# Lesson 1 - Veritology

- Why did Jesus come to earth / What is Truth?
- Cosmic Battle.
- What is insanity?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- The Cosmic Cube.
- Universals & Particulars.
- Ethics.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- “The Cosmos is all there .., or ever ..., or ever  
.... ..”

– What is Carl Sagan describing?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- The “Cosmic Cube”
  - What it is:
    - The term used to describe the completely materialistic, completely closed ( cause & effect ) universe or reality.
    - Is a metaphor for the philosophy of Materialistic Naturalism – or – **Naturalism**.
  - Attributes:
    - Ultimate Reality: Matter.
    - Knowledge: We can know only what we can observe.
    - Ethics: Relative, culturally determined.
    - Biology: Darwinian ( Macro ) Evolution.
    - Spirituality: Something in the box is elevated to divinity.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Philosophies of Theism vs. Naturalism

	<b>Theism</b>	<b>Naturalism</b>
Ultimate Reality ( ontology )	Spirit & Matter ( dualism )  Open system	Matter ( monism )  Closed system
Knowledge ( epistemology )	Revelation & Observation	Observation
Biology	Special Creation & micro evolution	Macro ( Darwinian ) Evolution
Ethics	Universal Truth	Truth is relative – is a cultural construct.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- “The Cosmos is all there .., or ever ..., or ever  
.... ..”
  - This statement uses a certain technique to communicate an additional message.
  - Name the technique & the additional message.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- “Assumptive” Language
  - Language that flows from the presuppositions of a particular worldview.
  - Those on both sides of the Cosmic Battle use assumptive language.
  - The Danger: That deceptive ideas can slip through and become part of the recipient’s worldview.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- “Assumptive” Language ( cont )
  - Point being:
    - To be aware that it occurs and to be on guard.
    - To be aware that all forms of communication are subject to it.
    - Christians must develop a working knowledge of alternative truth claims & systems in order to detect assumptive language.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Universals & Particulars
  - Universals: The 1<sup>st</sup> principles of reality that provide order & meaning to the individual facets ( particulars ) of life.
  - Particulars: The “stuff in the box”. The individual and collections of objects we find all around us.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics



# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics



# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Universals & Particulars ( cont )
  - Major problem for naturalists is the issue of universals.
    - Finite minds cannot possible gather enough observations to create trustworthy universals.
    - The naturalist can never trust that what he believes to be true is true.
  - Biblical Worldview does not suffer from this inconsistency. Why?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Universals & Particulars ( cont )
  - What are the Universals that provide order & meaning to the particulars of marriage & family?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Ethics
  - R.C. Sproul provides the best definitions:
    - Ethics: What “ought” to be.
    - Morality: What “is”.
  - Crisis in ethics today – what is it?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Ethics ( cont )

- Crisis in ethics today

- Is that our culture has so confused the meaning of the ethics and morality that they are synonymous.
    - Today how do we gauge what is right?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Ethics ( cont )

- Today how do we gauge what is right?

- Through polls and other means of public opinion sampling: Whatever the majority believes to be right makes it so.
    - Whatever is “normal” is right.
    - This is postmodernism at its core: no transcendent truth, all truth is a construct of a specific culture and time.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Ethics ( cont )
  - Point being: Without transcendent universal truth “might makes right”. Mao “Morality begins...”
  - Power becomes the final source of truth.
    - In stable societies public opinion, persuasion, political solutions are the means of determining right and wrong.
    - In unstable societies, peaceful means have a tendency to breakdown into brutality, oppression, and tyranny.

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Ethics ( cont )
  - Power becomes the final source of truth.
    - Reason why, as Christians, we should be concerned about the issue of Truth & Ethics.
    - Postmodernism is not a slightly misguided but benign philosophy, it is the first steps toward a totalitarian state.
    - “If there is no God, all things are permissible.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Brothers Karamozov

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- Worldviews matter
  - Worldview drives how we think, act, feel - it reveals what we really believe is true.
  - A consequence of non-biblical worldview is that we buy lies and are conformed to the world.
  - Romans 12:2 - Be “Transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
    - What does this passage mean? Do we know how to be transformed? What does transformation look like?

# Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics

- What is The Cosmic Cube?
- Universals & Particulars.
- Ethics.

# Lessons 1 & 2

- Lesson 1 – Veritology Review
- Lesson 2 – Philosophy & Ethics Review
- What does Transformation look like?