

I. Introduction – Have you been taken captive?

- a. How we are to treat those who have been taken captive - 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- b. Scriptural warning against hollow and deceptive philosophy – 2 Colossians 2:8
- c. Carl Sagan’s worldview – “The Cosmos is all there is, or ever was, or ever will be.”
- d. Assumptive language – a powerful and dangerous form of knowledge because it is designed to evade critical thought on the part of the recipient.
- e. Cosmic Cube – Illustrates the naturalistic or materialistic worldview belief that there is nothing outside of the cosmos; reality is a closed box and all truth must be materialistically perceived. For the materialist, the final reality is matter. There is no unseen spiritual realm.
- f. Biblical Presuppositions – God is and has revealed himself to us in both His word (special revelation) and through nature (general revelation).
- g. God’s Nature – He is transcendent and immanent – He is outside of the box yet works within the box.

II. Philosophy – What is it?

- a. Webster 1828 definition vs today’s definition – God has been removed from the discipline of philosophy in today’s culture.
- b. Philosophical Questions – What is existence? What is the meaning and purpose of life?

- c. Universals and Particulars – Plato and Aristotle’s opposing views on this – How do we arrive at Truth? How do we make sense of the unity and diversity of our world?

III. Postmodernism – Can you live it?

- a. What is right? What is wrong? - Ethical implications of postmodernism – There is no basis for ethical standards or ethical language in a naturalistic / materialistic worldview.
- b. Plato’s Question: “Is an act right because God said it, or did God know it was right and told us about it?” – His laws are an expression of his nature. His laws are laws because they are one in the same with the final reality – the character and nature of God.
- c. Naturalistic philosophy implications – Dr. William Provine’s lecture – Darwin’s views in non-assumptive language.
- d. Statistical Ethics – our culture determines ethics through normalcy and survey data.

IV. Worldview – Formal vs Personal

- a. Lack of a personal, biblical worldview in America – We fail to see Christianity as a system that governs every area of life.
- b. Our worldview drives how we think, act, and feel – What we really believe.
- c. Consequences of non-biblical worldview: We buy lies and conform to the world.
- d. Conclusion and Solution – Renewing of the Mind – Metamorphoo – Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”