

How Should We Then Vote?
Series

Lesson #03

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Dean Bible Ministries

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How Should We Then Vote?

The Value of Human Beings

Psa. 11:3, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

צְדָקָה (*ṣ^edāqâ*) justice, righteousness.

Conformity to an ethical or moral standard

What is a Worldview?

Application

Political/National or Individual Decisions

This is where we talk and argue.

Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology (Knowledge): How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, “the universe”, nothing

Pressures of life

Foundation of *all* thought

Logical Sequence

These are the real issues, usually ignored.

A Judeo-Christian Worldview

- 1. God is the Creator of all things and created human beings in His image and likeness, giving them value and purpose.**
- 2. The Bible is God's revelation to man and is completely accurate in all that it reveals to man, teaching them how to live wisely in God's creation marred by sin.**
- 3. God created the human race in His image, both male and female.**

God

Personal-Infinite God

Creator God

God the Redeemer

The Providence of God

God the Lawgiver, Isa. 33:22, James 4:12

The Lawgiver

Isa. 33:22, “(For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King; He will save us);”

The Lawgiver

James 4:12, “There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”

What Were the Views of the Founders?

Lawgiver

The Mass. Constitution of 1780:

We, therefore, the people of Massachusetts, acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the goodness of the great legislator of the universe in affording us, in the course of His providence, an opportunity, deliberately and peaceably, without fraud, violence, or surprise, of entering into an original, explicit, and solemn compact with each other, and of forming a new constitution of civil government, for ourselves and posterity; and devoutly imploring His direction in so interesting a design, do agree upon, ordain, and establish, the following Declaration of Rights, and Frame of Government, as the CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—”

~Declaration of Independence

The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God

Claim: this phrase was used by Jefferson and the other founders and is an expression derived from Deism (through Locke) and is grounded on Enlightenment rationalism intentionally rejecting a Judeo-Christian theism.

True or False?

Reality

The God of the Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the Creator God of all mankind who instilled in them a moral law known to all through general revelation. This moral law was described as the “law of nature” for over 500 years of Christian theological and legal history.

1764–James Otis protests the Stamp and Sugar Acts, British rights were founded “in the law of God and nature.”

Early 1600s William Ames, *The Marrow of Theology*, law of nature synonymous with the law of God written on the hearts of all men.

THE BIBLE

King Alfred the Great
“Book of Dooms (Laws)”
9th century AD

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon
“Maimonides”
Jewish commercial law
12th century AD

Church Canon Law
Lanfranc, Thomas à Becket,
John of Salisbury

Magna Carta
1215
English King is under the law;
King empowered by Barons

1689 English Bill of Rights

John Locke;
Sir William Blackstone
Judge
Oxford Law Professor
*Commentaries on the
Laws of England,*
1765–1769

**Declaration of
Independence;
US Constitution**

Rom. 2:14, “for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Rom. 2:15, “who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)”

“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his creator, for he is an entirely dependent being ... And consequently as man depends absolutely upon his maker for every thing, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his maker’s will. This will of his maker is called the law of nature.”

~Blackstone, *Commentaries*, emph. added.

“The law of nature is that which God at the time of creation of the nature of man infused into his heart, for his preservation and direction; and this is *lex aeterna*, the moral law also called *the law of nature*.”

~Sir Edward Coke

“The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the holy scriptures ... As then the moral precepts of this law are indeed of the same original with those of the *law of nature.*”

~Blackstone, *Commentaries*, emph. added.

Basic Areas of a Worldview

- 1. Ultimate reality: Personal? Impersonal?
Includes the nature of humanity.**
- 2. Knowledge: Is there absolute Truth?
Can we know absolute Truth?**
- 3. Ethics: The standards by which we live.**
- 4. Beauty: What is it, how does it relate to
knowledge, ultimate reality, and ideas
of good and bad or right and wrong?**

Mankind, the Human Race

Psa. 139:14, “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

The Image of God

Personal

Self-consciousness

Exercising will and determination

**Intellectual, the ability to know, to think,
to know**

Gen. 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’

Gen. 1:27, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen. 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ ”

Gen. 2:9, “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Psa. 36:9, “In Your light, we see light.”

The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions; External experience; Scientific method; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; Intuition; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION	<u>Faith</u> in the objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic and reason