

FINDING TRUTH

Principle #2 “Identify the Idol’s Reductionism”

“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.**”

Romans 1:22,23

“When a worldview exchanges the Creator for something in creation, it will also exchange a high view of humans made in God’s image for a lower view of humans made in the image of something in creation. . . .When we define God as a **something** instead of a **Someone**, we will tend to treat humans as **somethings** too.” p.98

“You might picture reductionism as someone trying to stuff the entire universe into a box. When some part of creation is absolutized, then everything is redefined in its terms. . .if we can reduce humans to machines operating by natural forces, then we can explain their origin by purely natural forces.” p.45

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What does Scientific Materialism deify?

Matter and energy – Physics

What doesn’t fit?

Mind is an illusion. “Thinking will be reduced to computing: the neuroelectrophysiology of the brain.”

What are the consequences?

“People will be judged solely by how well they perform their assigned functions. And when they stop functioning, they will be tossed in the garbage heap with the other electronic trash.” p.111

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What does Romanticism deify?

The mind – imagination.

What has it given birth to?

“Political correctness. Multiculturalism. Identity politics. Speech codes. Culture is absolutized and truth is a social construction.”

What are the consequences?

“ . . .people hold certain ideas not because they have good reasons but because they are black or white, a man or a woman, Asian or Hispanic, or whatever. This is radically dehumanizing. It

implies that individuals are powerless to rise above the communities to which they belong.” p.121

“And if there is no objective or universal truth, then any claim to have objective truth will be treated as nothing but an attempt by one community to impose its own limited, subjective perspective on everyone else. An act of oppression. A power grab.” p. 120

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What political systems applied these idols?

Nazism – idol of race

A person’s views, character, and worth determined by race.

Who didn’t fit?

Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, Serbs, Poles, Ukrainians, dissenting Christians.

How many died?

25,000,000

Communism - Idol of Economic class

Economic class is determining factor

Who didn’t fit?

Capitalists, kulaks, dissenting Christians, etc.

How many were killed?

85 – 100,000,000

“The lesson is that idol-based ideologies are invariably dehumanizing, and if unchecked they lead to repression, coercion, oppression, war, and violence.

“ . . .every philosophy offers a model of reality that promises to liberate people from error, but they almost invariably end by enslaving those very same people, by failing to explain the whole of experience. They begin as liberators and end in some sort of despotism.’ p.135,136

“A biblical worldview does not divinize any aspect of creation or set up a false absolute. As a consequence, it does not lead to a reductionism that devalues or denies the other dimensions of creation. It does not have to shove the universe into a box and slice off whatever doesn’t fit. It is not exclusive but inclusive, affirming the goodness and reality of all God’s diverse and multi-faceted creation.” So when Paul says he is ‘not ashamed of the gospel,’ he is saying that a Christian worldview will not let you down. It will not disappoint. Christianity fulfills the human hunger for a unified, integrated worldview to live by.”

“Finding Truth” Nancy Pearcey pp.93-139

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In Principle # 3, we’ll see how Romans 1 outfits us with a powerful set of tools to test worldviews and uncover truth.

