

Idolatry in Education

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Our text is Romans 1:18-28. Romans is the book of God's courtroom. It is the book of wrath revealed and righteousness revealed. And the word 'revealed' is crucial—it means that if God hadn't revealed it, you never would have figured it out on your own. So it is *wrath revealed* and *righteousness revealed*. Romans one tells us why *sexual culture war* is ground zero in the spiritual war that is raging between biblical Christianity and lies of the evil one.

At the heart of the message of the Bible is the Creator-creature distinction. BUT, the defining worldview of our time is that everything came from nothing. The Biblical design of the world includes the creation of male and female as the image of God. God's plan for the universe is that God is Creator and 'Definer' of what He has made. As Creator He gives *designations, definitions, categories* and *relations* of what He has made.¹ God's defining role over His creation has established the creation structures of male and female and marriage and family. These **creation structures** are just as real as the street that leads into the Glendale Galleria foundational—they are at the core of your being (which is why redefinitions of marriage social contract theory, sexual perversion, and abortion constitute a radical overturning of God's design for His creation).²

*The absolute truth of God's design for the universe is a must if we are going to interpret the universe truthfully—to the glory of God.*³ God's relation to the creation is the ordering principle of the universe and of reality. Because God is the sustainer and definer of all that He has made; there is no such thing as a reality greater than God—or a reality in which God is but a component ('box view').

God's design is the only reliable vantage point to observe the truth about reality. Thus, it is the sole vantage point 'high enough' to provide the foundation for a unified worldview (the alternate is pluralism, diversity, and hopelessly fragmented knowledge). Biblical worldview alone provides a wide angle lens broad enough to see man's place in the universe.

God as Creator is the foundation of the gospel—for the gospel only makes sense in a world in which God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God is Creator, Owner, Upholder, Lawmaker, Ruler, Redeemer, and Judge. It is impossible to share the gospel effectively in a world where God's traditional/biblical categories have been redefined as time and chance. The gospel has no point of contact in a world in which chance has stripped everything of meaning. This is why there is an increasingly desperate need to define categories as God does—that He is Ruler, Sustainer, Owner of His creation—and that the designations and definitions He has made concerning His creation are absolutely essential for accurately interpreting reality.

God has authoritatively set forth His **'blueprint' for His creation.** His blueprint, found in His Word, is not only our moral map; but is our fixed point of reference which provides our understanding of the nature of reality (Ps 96). Only by what God has said in His infallible Word do we know what is true, real, right and wrong.⁴

The bumper stickers I saw certainly speak of "one-box" advance going mainstream—consider the content of the following bumper stickers: *He's your God; they are your rules; you burn in hell. Religion is not a prerequisite for morality. Don't pray in our school and we won't think in your church. Sorry I missed church; I've been practicing witchcraft and becoming a lesbian. Who are you to question why your God doesn't want me to believe in him? Have I found Jesus? Don't tell me he's lost again? Follow your heart; there are no rules. (Also this vehicle had the "Coexist" sticker displayed—the sticker*

contains symbols for every major religion—with those symbols spelling out the word, ‘coexist’—the message is that all religions ought to coexist in a harmonious pluralistic manner, with none claiming absolute truth.)

PPT. 3

Like an immense wrecking ball, a man-centered, evolutionary worldview has been moving through society for the better part of a century. It has left destruction in its wake. Like a ‘wrecking ball’ it has systematically broken down the boundaries set by God. Evolutionary theory/materialism has so thoroughly permeated our culture—it has practically become our national worldview. Students ingrained with an evolutionary worldview find themselves unable to find meaning for the universe or for their lives, left only with the option to create their own meaning. Students imbued with Darwinism find themselves lost in a chance universe without a fixed point of reference (75% are looking for the meaning of life).

PPT. 3A

The mainstream false worldview of our day shreds God’s divine blueprint for our lives. The evolutionary worldview regards man as a biological machine and not the image of God. But as we will see; man can’t live as a machine. Some call it science; but to reject God as Creator is to buy into the absurdity that **nothing made everything.** Rejecting the existence and role of our Almighty Creator is a ‘convenient’ way to get rid of God’s design and blueprint for His creation. (EX. Use example of a human eye factory; hummingbird; Darwin sick at the idea of the eye evolving.)

PPT. 4

Naturalism’s assault has torn down God’s creation structures and it has left society craving a replacement. “One-box” offers itself as that new ordering principle. All reality fits in a box called the universe, including God. Naturalism’s denial of God’s creation structures (divinely ordained distinctions) has left an immense spiritual vacuum. If God is not the definer of the reality He made and upholds, then puny man in his arrogance will grab that role for himself so he can pretend to be in charge.

“One-box” worldview is growing and thriving in the ‘seedbed’ left by decades of Darwinism. “One-ism” is rushing into the spiritual void left by secularism. Secularists want a ‘spiritual’ answer—but not from Christianity. **Darwinism/evolutionary theory demanding all reality fits in the box of the physical universe.** The “one box” worldview has gone to war against the Biblical truth of God and the biblical truth of male and female as the image of God. The “one box” view sees biblical Christianity as standing in the way of its goal of global oneness.

PPT. 5

This ‘all in a box’ worldview ‘lens’ proposes a sweeping vision—stressing the oneness of all things; the divinity of man and nature; and the goal of global harmony. As a worldview it presents a new view of the order of creation—a new way to view reality (but actually it is an *old* way). This is a patent denial of biblical worldview. ***It is a rejection of the Creator’s order (it can’t be partly right).***

PPT. 6

Biblical worldview (God’s blueprint) is expressed in the distinctions which God has made in creation. We could say that **God creates by ‘separating things’—heaven and earth; dry land and sea; animal and plant; day and night; man and woman (Gen 1:4ff.).**

“Two-ness” is the very essence of biblical worldview. The creation structures formed by God are: male distinct from female; human distinct from animal; animal distinct from plant; etc. These ‘binaries of two-ness’ constitute boundaries or divisions established by the Creator. “These principles should not be seen and understood merely as the physical creation (Genesis), but as stating a teaching a point that the universe has a moral base.”⁵ The building blocks of the universe are not merely molecules, elements, stars and planets, God has also built His moral commandments into the universe.

In other words, there is a moral order built into the creation we sometimes refer to as ‘natural law’ (therefore, there are behaviors that are ‘against nature’). “Human beings are only correctly understood in relationship to their Creator [and His moral government].”⁶ As humans, our identity and purpose are inseparable from our designation/identity as the very image of God. Our rationality, worship, and morality are the direct expression of having been created in the image of God.

Thus, our identity as the image of God contains our ‘job description.’ We are to live as the *image of God*—and consequently find our dignity and humanness in the good and wise boundaries in which He has placed us. We are to raise up God-fearing communities; we are to devote ourselves to marriage and family; we are to exercise the dominion mandate over the works of God’s hands. Our identity and our calling as humans made in the image of God are inseparable.⁷

PPT. 7

Paul begins the largest epistle on salvation (Romans) with an analysis of “one-box’ thinking in a world that has lost biblical cosmology (God-ordained distinctions). We need Paul’s analysis of the world because it is into this world that we must speak the gospel. The 1st Century Greco-Roman world was pro-homosexual and pro-infanticide (when deemed necessary), and anti-God of the Bible.

PPT. 8

Paul tells us in Romans one that man’s rebellion (the same universal rebellion) is expressed in a three-fold way. This IDOLATRY/rebellion is manifested in three areas:

CONCEPTUALLY (theology and the nature of God)

SPIRITUALLY (spirituality and the human response of worship)

BEHAVIOURLY (sexuality and the human response in corporeal behavior)

PPT. 9

SUPPRESS THE TRUTH>>> WORSHIP AND SERVE THE CREATION>>> COMMIT SEXUAL IMMORALITY

The first of these three expressions of rebellion leads to the next and so on. In the realm of *thought*, suppression of the knowledge of God leads to sinful expression in the next area which is *spirituality*. Spirituality then becomes the worship of the creation and the creature (nature) which leads to rebellion in the third area which is in *behavior*. **Wickedness is expressed in sexual immorality.**⁸ Paul is telling us why the floodgates of immorality have burst open in our culture (which was also the case in the Greco-Roman culture of Paul’s day).

PPT. 10

God’s response to man’s rebellion is wrath revealed. God’s wrath revealed takes a very specific form. God’s wrath is His righteous response to man’s wicked three “exchanges.” God’s wrath is expressed in three “givings over.” Man exchanges in vv. (glory of God for corruptible creatures) 23, (truth of God for the Lie) 25, (natural function for unnatural function) 26. God declares that He judges the three idolatrous exchanges by giving over in vv. 24, 26, 28. They are given over in their minds, their spirits, and their bodies.

Paul’s use of definiteness (articular nouns) means that he has specificity in mind when he refers to the truth, the creature, the lie, the Creator. Jesus said that when the devil speaks; he speaks “the” lie (Jn 8:44)—the Lie spoken at the beginning in Eden. Paul is speaking of the original Lie manifesting itself in subsequent forms in human history. Therefore Paul is referring to a specific denial of the truth when sinners suppress the truth of the knowledge of God.

Paul's focused language (with definite articles) narrows the religious options in the world to two possibilities: one either serves the truth or the lie. In order to believe the truth, one must believe in God's eternal power (His eternality), God's divine nature (His utter **transcendence**—the fact that He is immortal and invisible—He is altogether 'other' and cannot be equated with anything in the creation—1 Timothy 1:17). The doctrine of creation *ex nihilo* is unknown in all other documents in the ancient world.⁹ God does not fit in the box of creation as a force or even a higher power.

What appears to be countless spiritual options in the world with *diversity*, and *relativism*, is really **only two ways of being spiritual**. Our young people are hearing that there are hundreds of ways to be spiritual. Either we worship God almighty through Christ as His creatures, or we buy into the lie that all reality is of the same kind and in the box.

The wrath of God is revealed against those who suppress the truth of God (His transcendence) in unrighteousness (v. 18). God's judgment (His wrath revealed) has different expressions in different ages in human history. In today's world whose center lies in the *autonomous self*—the net 'yield' is a bitter harvest of emptiness of meaning and moral confusion disorder—vain and futile thinking (this is serious bad news when God allows society to unravel.) In our 21st century culture most people assume the only truth one can have comes from themselves. The result of this is God allowing the society to unravel,

What our postmodern world celebrates—namely its rejection of all absolutes, and its assumed right to define all reality privately—is actually a sign of God's wrath (1:22). If we imagine that our own minds define reality and project reality, we are in a dangerous place. The modern definition of personal freedom does not change the fact that humans inescapably make moral judgments all day long (2:12-16).

Therefore, what is revealed about God in Romans One is NOT that we can find Him on our own terms, or in our own way, NO, what is revealed is that **He is wrathful toward those who suppress His clear self-revelation given** in both general revelation (creation), and special revelation (the Word) (1:18-21). His wrath is revealed in giving sinners over to futile thinking and immoral living. God reveals Himself as just; the whole world accountable and guilty (3:19).

The revelation of God's wrath spoken of in this context is not speaking primarily of future wrath; but the present reality of wrath. The present reality of God's wrath means that God's anger is expressed in *giving sinners over to their lusts and to a depraved mind*. (EX. Like a house perched high on a crumbling cliff—as *God's wrath is revealed*, the moral fabric of society is permitted to erode away—moral sense, meaning, law, and order gradually tumble to the rocks below. Men receive 'the due penalty,' 'foolish thinking,' and 'darkened hearts.')

God holds men responsible for how they treat His clear testimony. All men are immersed in a virtual 'sea' of divine revelation (Ps 19). Because God has made it evident '**in them**', and '**to them**', they are '**without excuse**' (or without any rational ordered defense for their behavior).

What are the categories of religious knowledge possessed by every unbeliever? Every natural man knows that he is created by God; that God is good; and that God will judge him someday. And he also knows that God's invisible attributes; eternal power; and divine nature are clearly seen—being understood through what has been made (1:19-21).

The theological content of THE LIE which builds IDOLS as follows: eliminate the truth that God deserves to be worshipped in thankfulness; overturn God's order in the cosmos (the order which reveals God's nature); replace God with another divinity—worship and serve the creature and the creation. The 'one-ist's' preference for the lie is what makes him a fool (v. 22). **The central pillar which supports the truth of the God of the Bible is Creator-creature distinction.** Once the fundamental pillar and pedestal of the truth is removed and lie is believed; any folly is possible. If you

lose the initial foundation, you lose everything. The **Creator-creature distinction** is the bedrock of Christian faith (Ex 15:2; Jer 10:14; Ps 96; Acts 17:24-29).

The nature of true worship is inseparable from the Creator-creature distinction. The wrong order (denial of the Creator-creature distinction) results in idolatry. In the **one box view**, the nature of worship is overturned—the **creature and the creation are worshipped**. Man loses his glory and dignity in the process. **He exchanges his glory for shame** (v. 23).

Our innate glory is due to the fact that we are made in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:26). God's created order for us is that we rule over the works of His hands (Ps 8). **The "one box" view strips man of the dignity of his creation identity** (Gen 1:27; Deut 15:6; Is 32:1; Eph 1:21). The one box worldview reduces man to sameness with an animal—he becomes subjected to the creation. In refusing to submit to the Creator he submits to created things (in practice he is debased/enslaved—he **loses his creation identity when he will not worship God**).

PPT. 15

This loss of dignity and creation identity is typified in Israel's apostasy in the matter of the golden calf (Ps 106:12-20). What is shocking today is that nature worship, which is regarded as progress by "one-box" thinkers, has always been condemned by God as self-destructive folly.

The idolatrous view that all reality is in the box of the universe denies that God is who He says He is. It denies the transcendence of God when it asserts that the universe cannot be explained by anything outside of itself. For "one-box" says the cosmos is self-emergent, self-sustaining, self-fulfilling, self-interpreting, self-determining. *If you worship nature, you lose your human dignity and descend to the level of an animal (EX. Note the Norwegian museum exhibit of homosexuality in the animal kingdom.)*

"One-box" stance on sexuality is certainly an expose of its system of thought. The everything in the box view has a particular stance on sexuality. Remember, if you don't worship God as Creator, then you are giving the honor He deserves to His creation instead of Him. The worship of creation will include the worship of sex (a continual media event in the West). What a testimony of divine inspiration that Paul begins the book of Romans with an explanation of the worldview that underlies homosexuality. Paul ties homosexuality to a theological reason—the **exchange of the truth for the lie and the worship of the creation** (v. 25).

Paul is giving us a **theological reason for illicit perversion**—it is the overturning of the truth about the nature of the world (a denial of the moral structures and distinctions God has placed in the creation). Overturn the truth about God's created order and you overturn the notion of God Himself. God has written the knowledge of His glory into the nature of the creation—so all men are *without excuse* (vv. 19-20). If we lose the truth of God's relationship to the world, we also lose the truth that He governs the world by His moral laws. Paul is telling us the real reason for sexual perversion.

PPT. 16

The idolatrous Lie (v. 25) will work itself out in sexual immorality—and in particular homosexuality. Homosexuality is an overturning of God's created order. The worship of nature is a very unnatural way of living. Ancient Sodom changed the order **of the woman's nature** (v. 26). It should not surprise us that a return of the Lie in the public arena should be accompanied by homosexuality (and the homosexual agenda). Modern man conceals his idolatrous worship of creation. He gives credit to creeping things for his origin, and calls it science, when actually he is worshipping the creation.

PPT. 17

These two ways of viewing the universe are mutually exclusive. ***These two systems of thought are mutually exclusive.*** Homo-theology ("one-box") emphasizes that everything has the same substance—it brings all to sameness. Let's look again at the three categories Paul addresses—*truth*

(theology), worship (spirituality), and behavior (sexuality). (HOMO-THEOLOGY) stresses that nature and the divine are identified with each other (no distinction). (HOMO-SPIRITUALITY) worships nature and the self (narcissistic praise of self). It seeks a 'spiritual' goal of removing differences (HOMOSEXUALITY) is the most 'natural' thing if the above is true—it is the preferred sexual expression of pagan worldview.

Everywhere the worship of creation is taught, and everywhere the all in a box view is dominate, there will be the eventual advocacy of homosexuality. Homosexuality follows the worship of the creation (note its advocacy on university campuses where paganism is taught). The homosexual agenda affirms that we all benefit from the breakdown of gender roles (the breakdown 'liberates' from stereotypes, patriarchy, distinctions, oppression of women, and discrimination.). **The homosexual agenda seeks to change our culture by destroying the notion of the image of God as male and female.**

PPT. 18

The truth of God, who He is, includes His relationship to the creation as Ruler, Owner, Upholder, and Definer. **The Creator-creature distinction;** dignity; personhood; hierarchy; stewardship; rationality; ethics; meaningful history; revelation; mediation; resurrection; God's love; prayer; praise; Christian experience. "Two-ness" upholds the immutability of the creation structures: *God and man, male and female, man and animal, animal and plant, good and evil.*

PPT. 19

The created distinctions may be expressed as follows: (HETERO-COSMOLOGY) celebrates the Creator-creature distinction. (HETERO-SPIRITUALITY) celebrates the otherness and transcendence of God which makes possible true worship and intimacy. Nature and the creation give praise; and do not receive praise. (HETERO-SEXUALITY) is union with difference. It symbolizes the relation of God and the world and a love relationship with another person different from us.¹⁰

PPT. 20

"One box" spirituality seeks to erase the distinctions between God and man; between man and animal; and between man and woman. Perversion is the inevitable result—the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans chapter one that the overturning of created order will result in unnatural ways of living (Rom 1:24-27). The worship and serving of nature is man's 'default response' and consequence of setting aside the knowledge of God and His created order. **To remove the distinctions between God and us is ultimately the same as no distinctions.** In essence, human depravity is 'hard-wired' to nature worship. We are created to worship, therefore the denial of God does not remove man's worshipping nature—man will worship some aspect of the creation by default.¹¹

PPT. 21

The breaking down of clear gender roles, male and female, the gender binary (male-female) is central to the whole new vision for society—a vision which intends to usher in a new moral order with new laws and ethics. The deconstruction of male and female lays the groundwork for a new morality in which laws are made to 'prevent discrimination against alternative lifestyles.' The reality extolled by the one box view rejects the created order and substitutes an opposing view of reality in its place. The outcome is a new set of ethics which enforces homosexual politics.¹² When God is removed from ethics, laws can become vices (note the current forms of legislation in sexual politics).

In the this view, the male-female distinction is erased making homosexuality appear 'natural' within that worldview. Christianity will increasingly be regarded as the adversary of progress. Because of the divinely created male-female binary aspects central to biblical worldview; Christianity is regarded as the single greatest threat to public acceptance of homosexuality.¹³

"One-box" has been given a 'free ride' into our generation—which is proof that post-Christian Westerners have released their grip upon the transcendence of God (cosmology)—suppression of the truth of God has gone corporate.

Christian college students are often ‘mute’ when it comes to engaging our culture. “One of the reasons the mouths of our college kids are often closed in their public witness is because they are intimidated by the politically correct, diversity-inclusivistic ideology of the academy. Students are ‘brainwashed’ into a survivalist mode of, ‘Can’t we just get along?’ ‘Can’t we just remove or ignore or “tolerate” what divides us? – when it is really a play for, the implicit appeal to **intolerant oneness**.”¹⁴

Our Christian students are in trouble because they cannot make the truth they believe ‘speak’ to this culture.¹⁵ They lack the training necessary to see the total relevance of God’s truth to all of life. Liberal educators have ‘**framed the issues**’ of the day within their one box worldview. As a consequence, Christian students are regularly intimidated/**bullied** by their professors. As a result, Christian kids tend to **keep their convictions private**, or they blend with the world. Unfortunately, the latter choice is the most common one; but it doesn’t have to be that way. Through training in biblical worldview our young people can be equipped for effective Christian apologetics and evangelism.

Liberal educators have ‘framed the issues’ of the day within the categories of their worldview of all in one box “one-ism.” Consequently, we are in a serious crisis of discourse. The political left has told us that we cannot think outside their box—**therefore they always win the argument**. What is needed is a more incisive way for Christians to talk about the issues. Believers need clear categories. They need to see through the lens of these two mutually exclusive options, **either we worship God or we worship the creation**. Antithesis—that there are two totally antithetical systems. Both claim to be the truth about reality. This approach is incredibly helpful to students.

What appears to be countless spiritual options in the world with its *syncretism, pluralism, diversity, and relativism*, is really **only two ways of being spiritual**. Our young people are hearing that there are hundreds of ways to be spiritual. But the lie beneath all false religious options is more unified than we have imagined. There are **only two religious options** vying for hearts and minds.

Biblical worldview lets us as believers ‘frame the issues’: the biblical truth of our Creator ruling the cosmos. **God the ‘Definer’ gives us the correct categories** to define our world and to *engage our world*. The categories given by our Creator are necessary in order to *deconstruct* the one box worldview. Because students are weak theologically; we must equip them to define categories as God does. We must cast the battle as a collision between **one true God and nature worship**.¹⁶ (EX. Rebecca at Wellsley)

Romans one is the key—for in that chapter Paul tells us how idolatrous worldview ‘puts itself together’ (or views reality). Our college and high school students need these categories in order to open closed mouths. Most people in the rising generation never examine the system of thought which they have been taught. The biblical approach (antithesis) has always been to compare (two) worldviews: “. . . walk no longer as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind. . .” (Eph 4:17).

Genuine Christians preach the black and white contrast between the God of scripture and the false pervasive worldview of our times.

Our task as Christian leaders is to provide students with the categories necessary to enable them to stand against the prevailing errors of our day. We are standing at a crossroads in church history. We must ‘world-proof’ the rising generation in order to avoid sending them like lambs into the wolf packs which populate the academy (of our public universities).

Central to our strategy is to not only set up the contrast between ‘one-box and biblical worldview—but we must also show the consequences of each worldview. Central to the contrast are these mutually exclusive worldviews: **1. A universe created and upheld by Almighty God. 2. A universe in which creatures worship the creation.** The dire consequences of idolatrous worldview are catalogued by Paul in Romans chapter one. Those who subscribe to lying worldview are judged by God. They experience three areas of being given over—they are: ***given over in their minds; given over in their spirits; given over in their bodies.***¹⁷ ***These are utterly disastrous consequences!!***

By contrast Christ as Lord of the cosmos and Lord of the Church is truth and life incarnate. “. . . [He] abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim 1:10b). He is sovereign over all knowledge—Christ answers, and delivers from, by His own Person, every version of ‘the lie’ (Rom 1:25). He reconciles to God. Thus, at the center of Christian worldview is Christ the ‘Savior of the World.’”¹⁸

Christo-centric biblical worldview is the weapon capable of piercing and dismantling the fortifications of “one-box” which are raised up against the knowledge of God (operates by contrast).

How do we begin the dialog? The use of Worldview, or ‘Ultimate Questions’ forms a starting point for dialogue and for the diagnosis of erroneous worldviews. The biblical events of ***Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration*** comprise a diagnostic test to examine every worldview. Four ultimate questions to test a person’s world and life view. The questions are: **1.) Where did we come from? (Who made you and me?) 2.) Who are we? (What is the value and purpose of a human being? Why is life sacred?) 3.) What has gone wrong with the world? 4.) What can we do to fix it?**

Out of the ‘one box’ worldview come lies which have been circulated long enough now that they have become ‘plausibility structures’ in our culture. Public universities are dispensing these lies **under the name of education.** The majority of these lies are not even questioned by college students. Some of the most prevalent lies in our universities are:

- The starting point for objective knowledge is to assume a closed universe.
- Spirituality is *esoteric* (internal), not *exoteric* (from a transcendent God outside of us).
- Mankind is normal; there was no space-time fall marking man’s entrance into depravity.
- History is cyclical and not linear (there is no divinely ordained consummation).
- Morality is always evolving; there is no fixed transcendent moral code outside of man.
- Sexuality in all of its expressions among consenting adults is essential to freedom.
- The human intellect is trustworthy and reliable apart from divine revelation.
- The human body is utilitarian and not sacred (spirituality is divorced from the body’s use).
- The answers to ultimate questions cannot be answered with absolute certainty.
- The demand for absolutes in knowledge and morality is a power play.
- The best view of freedom is an unrestrained vision of freedom determined by the person.
- The Bible’s design and goal for man opposes human freedom.
- To demand absolutes in the area of moral truth is irrational.
- Man has no eternal soul.
- Biological determinism is the most reliable explanation of human behavior.
- Prime reality is matter, motion, and natural law; therefore prime reality is not personal.

- Ideas form a plurality, or marketplace—ideas do not necessarily have consequences.
- Morality belongs in the realm values, relative to the individual and not in the realm of truth
- Human harmony will be best achieved by removing our differences.

But there is a lie more pervasive and deceptive than all of these. It is the lie that you may believe and live out any of the above lies without consequences. That lie was first sown by Lucifer. He is a liar and a murderer (Jn 8:44). He is the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4). He blinds the minds of unbelievers by convincing them that they are free when actually they are bondage. **Christ proclaimed that only those who are of the truth are free.** Those who commit sin are of the lie and are in bondage and will die in their sins and be shut out of God's heaven.

PPT. 31

The Bible tells us why a utopia engineered by depraved men is sure to fail and make matters worse. With the entrance of sin came four major separations: *the separation of man from God; the separation of man from man; the separation of man from himself; and the separation of man from nature.* Now what is immensely significant is that fallen men recognize these separations, but oppose God's testimony of why they exist and what must be done for man's deliverance. **Man's attempts to remove these separations will NOT usher in utopia—the opposite instead.** Even by using terms recognized by the academy, we can designate these four separations as:

- **Spiritual/theological** (separation of man from God)
- **Sociological** (separation of man from man)
- **Psychological** (separation of man from himself)
- **Ecological** (separation of man from nature)

The gospel tells us that God in Christ alone can heal these four separations. And that is precisely what God is doing in His plan of the ages (Rom 16:25-27). The benefits of the consummation of this divine plan will fill the earth, the cosmos, and eternity to the glory of God. Thus, we reiterate, the Lie in Eden believed by our first parents was the **cause of these four separations** listed above. Now this lie has not gone away. **A form of the lie is being used by the powers of darkness to deceive the world concerning HOW these four separations may be bridged and removed.** Marxism, globalism, state-ism, feminism, and the homosexual agenda are all expressions of the lie. For each of these versions of the lie offers its part in seeking a utopian answer to the four separations caused by sin.

The distinctions which God built into the cosmos as 'creation structures' are an essential part of cosmology. God's relation to His creation expressed in His moral government over us, His creatures, is embodied in distinctions such as: *the distinction between Creator and creature; the distinction between man and woman, between good and evil; and between and animal.* These distinctions are fixed; they are part of the created order (why we have a cosmos and not a chaos). Now here is the breathtaking almost incomprehensible part of the Lie: the divinely created distinctions above are viewed as part of the alienation in human experience. Therefore, in the interest of ushering in utopia (and redemption from the four separations), they must be removed, or flattened out (the agenda of "one-box").

In this we see the demonic imitation of redemption. The very ‘furniture’ of created order—divinely created distinctions are considered an obstacle to utopian oneness and harmony. There can be no greater antithesis/contrast between God’s plan of creation and redemption and the evil one’s globalist agenda communicated through the agenda of the ‘progressives’.

The ideological platform of the new world order will increasingly be seen as an effort to remove the distinctions ‘which divide us’. Even domestically (USA) we have recently seen a political push to remove the distinctions between the rich and poor, between men and women, and between heterosexuality and homosexuality, and between holy matrimony and sodomy. Biblical cosmology, characterized by divinely created distinctions, will be supplanted by homo-cosmology in which the distinctions ordained by God will be denied. This will all be done in the name of removing the four separations.

But this is a suicidal mission. For, it is **impossible to actually remove divinely ordained distinctions**—they are an integral part of the created order enforced by divine governance. God’s goal of design for humans (teleology) is the only source of freedom—true freedom is within the good and wise boundaries and **distinctions ordained by our Creator**. Created distinctions make the worship of God possible. The new world order promulgates the polar opposite (remove them to bring us together).

The powers of darkness are gaining loyalty (followers) and uniting people through the deception of the utopian vision of eliminating God-ordained distinctions (Peter Jones). The evil one knows that **declaring war on created distinctions is to declare war upon God who is the distinction-Maker**. Historically, the denial of divine distinctions has been part and parcel of nature worship (something we are clearly seeing in ‘deep ecology’). To worship the creation instead of the Creator is the denial of the first distinction—the **infinite distinction between God and man**.

PPT. 32 & 33

We preach the glorious gospel against the black backdrop of the human condition and our culture’s predominant errors. Our culture sits under the settled anger of God’s wrath. Human bondage to sin is complicated by darkened thinking. In His wrath, God leaves men to a depraved mind, to absurd thinking and to moral disorder. But wonder of wonders, God is not only revealing His wrath; **He is revealing His righteousness**. In the gospel message we discover that God is making friends of His enemies. He is freely giving His righteousness to former rebels. He has given His Son and not withheld Him (8:32, *paradoken*—same Grk. word as ‘given over’ in Romans one). In the giving of His Son to die on Calvary’s cross, Christ has absorbed into His own Person the very wrath that sinners justly deserve.

Salvation in Christ purges our hearts of the idolatry of worshipping the creature and the creation. Through regeneration by the Spirit through the power of the gospel we celebrate our Creator God and hallow Him by honoring the distinctions He has made—we joyfully submit to His moral government as our wisdom; as our highest good; and as our freedom. In so doing God is glorified. But, the neo-pagan progressives are defying God and are galvanizing themselves around nature worship. Consider some of the evidences of an effort to remove divine distinctions:

Endnotes:

- ¹ Dave Doveton, “Paganism in the Church” (Escondido, CA: Christian Witness to a Pagan Planet, think-tank, 2007).
- ² Jay Wegter, “Worldview, Apologetics, and Evangelism, BCW363A” (Newhall: The Master’s College, 2007).
- ³ Dave Doveton.
- ⁴ Jay Wegter, “Worldview.”
- ⁵ Emil Brunner in Dave Doveton, “The Pagan Deconstruction of a Biblical Worldview,” p. 3.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Jeffrey Ventrella.
- ⁸ Peter Jones, “Framing the Issues; Finding our Voices” (Escondido, CA: Christian Witness to a Pagan Planet, think-tank, 2007).
- ⁹ Peter Jones
- ¹⁰ Peter Jones
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Dave Doveton, “Paganism in the Church.”
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ Peter Jones.

- ¹⁵ John Stone, “On the Cause of Christian College Students being Mute” (Newhall: The Master’s College, 2007).
- ¹⁶ Peter Jones.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, *The Saviour of the World* (Cherry Hill: Mack Publishing Co., r.p. 1972).