

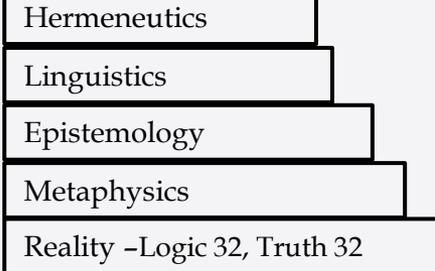


**The Problem of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an
All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (32):
Job 20: The relationship between testing
& first- and second-order desires/volitions
<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>)**

Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

Bible Doctrines

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology
- Prolegomena for objectivity (Philosophical Realism) - 9



Broad and deep understanding of BD

Illustration of the three levels of understanding:

- God
- Volition
- Love
- Testing
- Science

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.

Enough BD to be overcomer

1 John 2:14, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Eph 4:14, children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming

Mature Believer - Level 3- Metaphysical Maturity

- High abstract metaphysical understanding of BD; Esse, HU, Trinity, Evil, Good,
- Enormous capacity for synthesis of BD and grasping of spiritual realities.
- Required to understand Trinity, free will, evil, good, the human soul, the hypostatic union, substances and properties, philosophy of mind.

Young adult - Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization

- Things in terms of Bible doctrine that is undergirded by biblical passages

Baby & meaning of life - Level 1

- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Does not apply doctrine or divine viewpoint to all the issues of life
- Fragmented understanding of truth.

Carnal believer lacks integration with God and Truth due to human viewpoint background

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM OBJECTIVITY IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION & BIBLE DOCTRINE (9)

HERMENEUTICS: How do we understand what is communicated? Meaning and understanding; the meaning is in the Text, not in the author's mind.

LINGUISTICS: How do we communicate that we know? Elements of language (instrumental sign; conventional sign, formal sign); external vs. internal Word; from Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, and Greek to English.

EPISTEMOLOGY: How do we know that which is? Sense cognition (external senses, internal senses). Intellectual cognition (illumination, abstraction, the thought)

METAPHYSICS: What is that which is? Act and potency. The nature of existence: form and matter: Something's identity; something's essence; the reality of substances; substance and accident (the ten categories of being).

REALITY: That which is. All essences have one thing in common: they exist; identity; correspondence truth vs. the curse of functional, pragmatic, coherence, and existential views of truth. The undeniable laws of logic are the laws of reality and being as such. Christianity is not an irrational mystery.

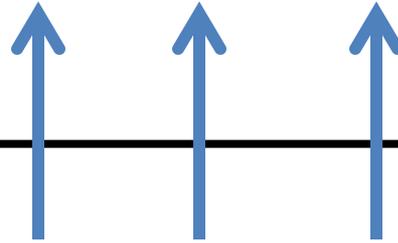
PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM OBJECTIVITY IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION & BIBLE DOCTRINE (9)

1. Everyone does philosophy from their presuppositional grid which effects the view of reality, the spiritual life, God, and Bible doctrine. The only question is whether you are doing it well or poorly. BTW, the philosophy of letting someone else do your philosophy is doing it poorly.
2. FBC: from I.C.E. to P.R.I.C.E. (P.R., philosophical realism). With P.R.I.C.E. the believer is able to understand, develop, and defend all of those terrific doctrines (e.g., volition, natural law, D.E., marriage, family, law). Every believer should be conversant in all areas of Bible doctrine and have a worked out systematics.
3. The most powerful believer in the world is the doctrinal believer who has a foundation of philosophical realism.

P. R. I. C. E.



I. C. E.



Philosophical Presuppositions.



PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM – P.R.

IS THE ONLY SYSTEM THAT OBTAINS OBJECTIVITY

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR OBJECTIVITY IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION AND BIBLE DOCTRINE-9

4. The objective is to obtain objectivity. Conservative evangelicals maintain that we must be able to obtain objectivity, but they have no clue how to get there.
5. The distinction between subjectivity and objectivity.
 - a. Subjectivity is how you *feel* about something.
 - b. Objectivity is how things actually are—Truth!
6. Attainment of objectivity has not only been abandoned by most Evangelicals, it has been all but given up in virtually every major field of study, cf.
 - a. Science.
 - b. History.
 - c. Linguistics.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR OBJECTIVITY IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION AND BIBLE DOCTRINE-8

7. Only through philosophical realism (PR) it is possible to understand and navigate through the difficult waters of subjectivity and objectivity. It is PR that enables the believer to sail between the Scylla and Charybdis and obtain objectivity for biblical interpretation, Bible doctrine, the spiritual life, and apologetics.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, in the Spirit be walking, and you will not (οὐ μὴ) bring to completion the desire of the flesh (ἐπιθυμίαν σαρκὸς). 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition (ἀντίκειται) to one another, so that you may not do (1st order volition) the things that you please (2nd order desire formed by regeneration and Bible doctrine).

1. At the point of salvation the believer gains a brand-new set of 2nd order desires. However, he retains much of his first order desires and volitions.
2. The key to victory is found in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Correspondence truth tells us that the power of the HS is far more powerful than the OSN. HS enables the believer to bring his first order desires and volitions in line with second-order desires. Only when the believer brings those in line is he truly free—not at war within himself.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, lasciviousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit (rewards in) the kingdom of God.

1. Temptation is not sin; anger is not necessarily sin; frustration is not necessarily sinful (cf. JC with Mary of Bethany; patience as a fruit of the Spirit).
2. Sins always fragments the believer and habituates him in activity of the OSN, where he is unable to maintain fellowship for extended periods.
3. Unless this fragmentation is solved through grace, the believer loses spiritual freedom as he continues to war against himself—1st order volition is against 2nd order desire.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1. This is the existential life of the Spirit. These are the true desires of the heart and a down payment of our future glorified lives.
2. This is true freedom. Freedom is not freedom to do whatever you want. Jesus did not say the truth will make you free to sin. Freedom is found only in the spiritual life (Gal. 5:1):

John 8:31 Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

FREEDOM AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

3. True freedom and principle of alternate possibilities (P.A.P.). In the eternal state the believer will have freedom while at the same there will not be alternate possibilities to sin: his freedom will be supreme and yet he will not be free to sin—no P.A.P.
4. The reason there will be no alternate possibility of sin in the eternal state can be understood in how our wills function with our intellects. Man always seeks a “good” that the intellect presents to it. In the eternal state the intellect will have nothing but good to present to it.

FREEDOM AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

5. Illustrations of freedom, yet no PAP:

- God is free yet He is not free to sin because of His perfect intellect.
- Elect angels are free and yet do not sin because of intellect.
- In the eternal state our intellect will be illuminated by beatific vision.
- Human analogy of how the will works: Ruth and Naomi.

JOB 20

People Testing: Zophar's Sardonic Attacks on Job

1. Zophar's sardonic attitude about Job, 1-3.
2. Zophar's sardonic sermon on the brief prosperity of the wicked, 4-11.
3. Zophar's sardonic sermon on the impoverishment of the wicked, 12-19.
4. Zophar's sardonic sermon on God's anger against the wicked, 20-29.

1. There are several categories of testing/suffering for the believer.
 - a. #1: Suffering due to carnality and evil (in the genus of divine discipline and law of volitional responsibility): self-induced misery related to ignorance of BD and the plan of god; carnality, reversionism; wrong thinking, wrong motives, wrong decisions, wrong actions, and evil:

Hosea 8:7 For they sow the wind, And they reap the whirlwind.

Colossians 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives."

Job 5:17 "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reprove, So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. 18 "For He inflicts pain, and gives relief; He wounds, and His hands also heal.

Revelation 3:19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

1 Corinthians 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.

- b. #2: Disaster testing, personal and historical (physical and mental pain, crime, persecution, privation, loss of loved ones, financial status, disease, and handicaps).

c. #3: Suffering for double honor and glory.

Job, Abraham, Samson, Mary of Bethany.

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

- d. #4: People testing. This includes testing with those you love as well as those who consider you their foe.
- e. #5: System testing, Col. 3:12-4:1, 12.
- f. #6: Thought testing, 2 Cor. 12:10; Prov. 23:7; Rom. 12:2-3; 2 Cor 10:4-6.
- g. #7: Prosperity test: This test is related to advancing to the supergrace life (Num. 14:22; 1 Cor. 10:1-13) as well as the tests that come along with gaining financial success (1 Tim. 6:17-19; 2 Tim 4:10).