

Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

T/G/B

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

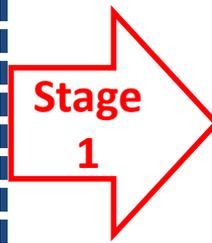
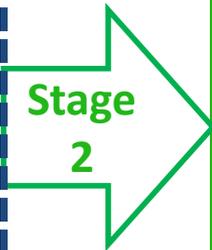
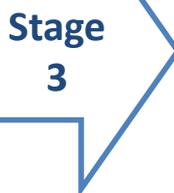
Epistemology

Metaphysics -22

Reality –Logic 32,
Truth 32

John 8:32; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; John 4:23-24.

1. God warns Christians about human philosophy: Colossians 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.* This warning is largely ignored.
2. It is through the various philosophies in the tradition of man (fideism, empiricism, agnosticism, semi-deism, Cartesianism, Platonism, Kantianism, Humeanism), that Satan holds in captivity the vast majority of Bible-believing Christians. The extent of the problem is so vast that doctrinal information alone will not solve the problem. Consider how modern man has lost ability to really see God and creation metaphysically so as to live in the wonder of Being and beings.
3. The unique opportunities of FBC for whole truth (PR+SFL+BD) to remove evil and develop capacity to view reality with philosophical realism, the biblical philosophy, like the NT believers.
4. Metaphysics 22: review of discovery of being as being and its ramifications for the modern Christian. Metaphysics of Being is as much of special revelation as anything else in Bible, cf. Exo. 3 and 20.



Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!

- Metaphysical understanding of God.
- Virtuous love for God: Intellective, volitional, emotional love of God. Enduring fellowship.
- Understanding “above all you could ever ask or image” (1 Cor.)



Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!

- Nominal understanding of God.
- Through BD this believer has gained a great deal of perinoetic truth regarding God and the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God’s *nature* due to lack of metaphysical development.
- He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.



Stage 1 – Christian baby = life of ups and downs.

- Utilitarian understanding of God.
- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to the problem of pagan horizon of meaning.
- All baby believers are tossed here and there by kosmos diabolicus, Eph 4:14.
- For baby believers it is primarily about pragmatism or personal encounter with truth. If it works or feels good , they think it must be true and enough.

Intellect



Volition

MIND

WILL

Hamlet, "What a piece of work is man! how noble in reason!
How infinite in faculty! in form and moving, how express and
admirable! in action, how like an angel! in apprehension, how
like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals!"
Animal, angel, God—in each of these man has seen his image.



James Madison, "If men were angels, no government
would be necessary. If angels were to govern men,
neither external nor internal controls on government
would be necessary."



Emotions

11 fundamental emotions

Feelings

6 basic emotions

Towards Good

Away from Evil

Love
Desire
Delight

Hate
Aversion
Sadness

Difficult to attain good

Difficult to remove evil

5 intensive
emotions

hope or despair
-pleasure
--joy
-peace
-suffering
-misery

fear or courage
-pleasure
--joy
-peace

anger

Intellective

Volitive

MIND

WILL

Feelings

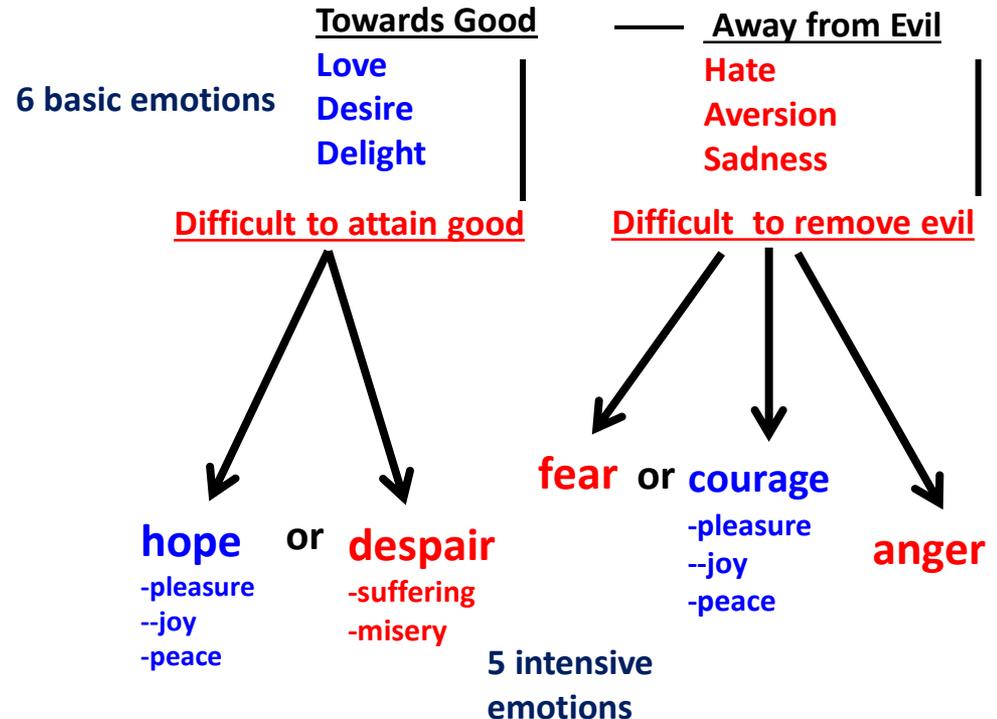
Emotive

11 fundamental emotions

VIRTUE

(Power for True Good)

- Intellective power sees true Good
- Volitive power desires true Good
- Emotive power enjoys true Good.



Virtue/Power for Good

1. The classical understanding of virtue is of “power” (cf. KJV of Mark 4:30, δύναμις) and excellence in morality/values (ἀρετή).
 - In the context of mankind, it refers to power for goodness in the mind, will, and emotions.
 - As a generation we have all but lost an understanding, let alone an appreciation, of virtue. Virtue, for modern man, is out of date, a bit quaint.
 - Without virtue civilization and spirituality dies.

Virtue/Power for Good

2. Virtue/power for Good.

- Two levels: natural and supernatural
- Three areas: the mind, the will, and the emotions.
- It should be an area that Christians excel in. Consider the scandals and vices throughout Christianity (cf. divorce among Christians; freak show of post-modern “Christianity”).

Virtue/Power for Good

3. Virtue is principle-based on both natural and supernatural levels.
 - Without the deep and abiding principles there are no ethics, morality, or natural or supernatural goodness or love for God or man.

Virtue/Power for Good

4. Without virtue, man does not have the power for true Good
 - No power for mind to see true good
 - No power of the will to seek true good,
 - No feelings or enthusiasm for the true Good.
 - We received the beginning of virtue/power at regeneration, in going from death to life, where we first apprehended true Good. This understanding grows in three levels with God (utilitarian, enjoyment, and perfected virtue as with Job).

Virtue/Power for Good

5. Apart from power to move to the Good, man will always move into the darkness of vice/evil, which he mistakes for his good.

6. God's appeal to volitive virtue, Deut. 30:15-20.

7. The blessings of virtue and the cursedness of vice/evil, Psalm 1; Matt. 6:19-24; 10:37; 1 Cor. 16:22; 1 John 2:14-16.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

1. One of the most dominant vices/evil of our times is known, at least classically, as “spiritual sloth.” God calls it lukewarmness (χλιαρὸς), to which He responds with the unflattering expression “vomit, (Rev. 3:16).
2. Spiritual sloth is directly related to not possessing the virtue/power to see, desire, and enjoy the Good.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

3. Spiritual sloth is characterized by spiritual lukewarmness, inertia, laziness, lethargy, passivity, indolence, apathy. It is lack of power or energy and enthusiasm for God, Bible doctrine, and spiritual things.
4. Lack of energy, or indolence, however, is not laziness in general. The spiritually slothful person is often very busy with the details of life in his success-worshipping, performance-oriented, Martha-like life. There is generally plenty of energy for the junk of KD.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

5. The problem with spiritual indolence is that there is lack of energy or enthusiasm for the things of God—intellectually, volitively, or emotionally—little to no thought, desires, or feelings for the things of God.
 - A spiritually lethargic person does not possess deep and abiding love for God.
 - He is not drawn to God by seeing Him as Good, which is a major characteristic of love.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

6. The spiritual indolent person does not have power for **spiritual good**. He is characterized by apathy and passivity toward spiritual good. Spiritual good does not resonate with him; he neither sees, desires, and has good feelings for spiritual good.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

7. In spiritual apathy, there is, in fact, a certain joylessness or boredom even when faced with God as the supreme joy. He does not see, desire, and feel that He is Ultimate Good.
 - It is one thing for this to be characteristic of the world, but it is monstrous when it is true of a believer, i.e., does not contemplate God Himself, as his greatest joy.
 - If the light in such a believer is so dark, how great is that darkness! (Matt. 6:23)
 - If the salt has become corrupted, how can the salt be restored? (Matt. 5:13)

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

8. With spiritual languor, there is a certain sorrow or duty when the mind thinks about spiritual good, e.g., like opportunities to advance in Truth.
9. In some ways spiritual lukewarmness is more distant from God than open rebellion against God. You have to know someone to hate them. Indifference, like amorality, is far worse in some respects than immorality.
10. The evil of spiritual inertia is lack of love and desire for God and the things of God. The sin of spiritual inertia is one of omission.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

11. Since spiritual apathy is a sin against love for God and the things of God, the Good, it affects every area of the life as one's love turns from God toward the things of Kosmos Diabolicus.
12. In spiritual apathy, the believer has lost interest in knowledge of God, appetite for God, and enjoyment of God. He stops seeking God.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

13. In spiritual torpor, the believer no longer sees God as his greatest good. He has lost sight of the marvelous matchless grace plan of God. He has lost sight of why he was created, who he is, and where he is going. He has lost all the most important truths and the implications of God for His life.

The vice/evil of spiritual sloth

14. In spiritual lethargy, the believer loses hunger for truth. Increasingly, he views truth in terms of pragmatic “value.” This will cause him to become far more tolerant of false doctrine.
15. In spiritual apathy, seeks and hungers for evil, which he takes as his ultimate good.
16. Reflection: I wonder how many Christians would accept an offer from God that included giving them everything they asked for (even no death), with the one condition of no fellowship with Him, no FHS, no BD, and no chance of ever seeing Him