

The Core Biblical Concept of Knowledge: The One and the Many

Written by Calvin Fox

Wednesday, 31 August 2011 12:45 -

The Biblical perspective is that all facts, all particulars [The Many], are related to each other as part of a total system created and ordered by God, held together at its center by Christ [The One]- *Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together* The true meaning and purpose of any particular can be understood only when seen in relation to the universal. True knowledge is only possible when it is grounded in God. Unregenerate “man” denies this and is determined to have knowledge autonomously and his knowledge, his interpretation of facts and life itself, will be inimical to God. This is the Antithesis begun in Genesis 3 with the “Fall”

The Antithesis in Education

Facts may be understood in a limited, functional, practical way- enough for “things to work”, but facts are not properly or completely understood apart from the system and its center. More than that, apart from the universal (i.e.- Christ), meaning and purpose assigned to particulars by the unregenerate mind will be in opposition to the meaning and purpose assigned to them by Christ.

Thus, civilization has seen Systems that “work” in the short term, but which run counter to what God the Creator wills and which, in the long run, are disastrous for man and creation, eg- embryonic stem cell research.

Ephesians 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,.. to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. 11 ... according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

This unity of all things (particulars) in Christ (the one) is God’s plan. Satan and autonomous “Man” resist and oppose God’s plan, but they will be crushed – Gen 3:15

Hebrews 2:8 [GOD] put everything under his feet. In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him –but, the promise is that we shall see Christ prevail

1 Corinthians 15:25 he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

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The Thesis: Unity of All Things in Christ

The true meaning and purpose of all particulars, of all that is- will eventually be understood when they are seen in connection with each other as they are in Christ.

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Phil 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We must heed the following admonition, especially in regard to schools and formal education:

Colossians 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for ... and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may ... know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him... 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through [that type of] hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. [Instead, learn philosophy, a world view, which depends on Christ 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Even with today's abandonment of the Classic Liberal Arts and the current popular emphasis on Math, Physical Science and Technology, Schools teach more than data and information, technique and mechanics, functions and skills. They teach or communicate, in every subject and course and at every level, purpose, meaning and values.

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It makes a major difference if the content, purposes, meaning and values are not centered in Christ and the Biblical World View. When this is the case, these matters are not neutral but will be taught or communicated with animus against God, Christ, Christians and the Bible. The most obvious manifestation of this currently is the emphasis on multiculturalism, pluralism, diversity and moral relativism in all the "Humanities" and on Philosophical Naturalism in all the "Sciences".

The Antithesis comes into play here. There is no neutral ground. Jesus said, "He who is not with me, is against me" Our purpose as Biblical Christians must be to bring every thought- including all public knowledge, as well as personal and private- into captivity to Christ. We must seek to develop knowledge grounded in God and his Word and live by that knowledge in a society that does not.

2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ