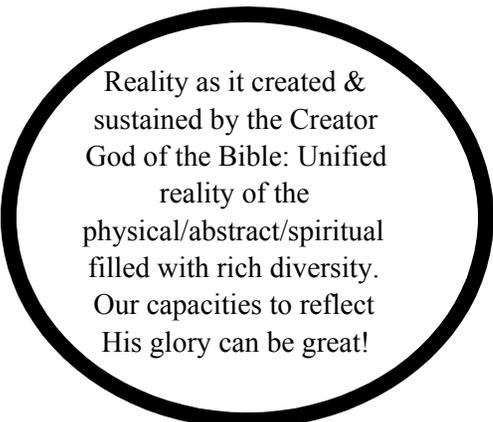


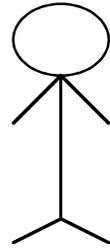
WHY ARE YOU EXPERIENCING “TENSION” IN YOUR WORLDVIEW?

When we try to create or assimilate a secular worldview that flows from man himself, a finite & selfish being, we find ourselves experiencing “cognitive and existential dissonance.” Not only is our worldview reductionistic, but it is also dehumanizing. Why? We were designed to be intimacy with God & to embrace & live life within the space-time reality God has created. Thus, when our assumptions of God, reality, truth, knowledge humanity, ethics, aesthetics, & evil do not correspond to the way things actually are, we find ourselves experiencing a *degrading* tension that is not only intellectually unsettling & incomplete, but also existentially vacuous or meaningfully short-lived. But what do we often do? Instead of turning to the possibility that the God of the Bible might possess final answers, we try repeatedly to find what will bring about the logical consistency, explanatory power, & existential peace we long for by turning to other finite ideas, earthly pursuits, & dramatic experiences; the search continues until we are exhausted, apathy finds expression, or pride emerges. Why pride? We hold onto our “idol” willfully deceiving ourselves that our “idol” is more than an “idol.” In an effort to convince ourselves that this worldview we have created or embraced does “work,” we attempt to find justification when we others embrace it too. But could it be that the God of the Bible can exchange our intellectual & existential dissonance for authentic resonance that offers greater explanatory power, restores your humanity, & offers what is qualitatively nourishing to you & situational setting? In his ministry to decades of young people who were searching for final answers that are intellectually & existentially fulfilling, Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer observed, “Non-Christian presuppositions simply do not fit into what God has made, including what man is. This being so, every man is in a place of tension. Man cannot make his own universe & then live in it.” ~ Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer [The God Who is There]* (Wheaton: Crossway, 1984), 1:132. Dr. Paul. R. Shockley, 5 November 2017. www.prshockley.org



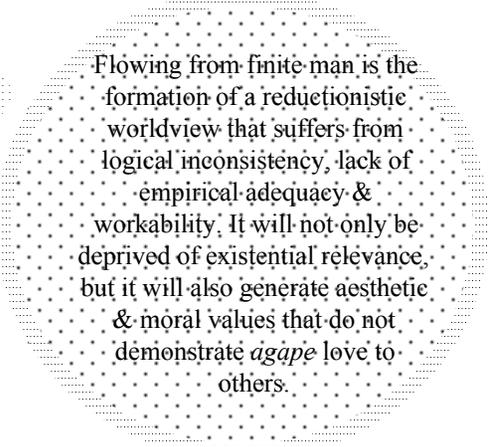
Reality as it created & sustained by the Creator God of the Bible: Unified reality of the physical/abstract/spiritual filled with rich diversity. Our capacities to reflect His glory can be great!

Reality as it is



What is the basis of your assumptions of God, reality, truth, knowledge, humanity, ethics, aesthetics, & evil?

Worldview Dissonance: Intellectual & Existential Tension:



Flowing from finite man is the formation of a reductionistic worldview that suffers from logical inconsistency, lack of empirical adequacy & workability. It will not only be deprived of existential relevance, but it will also generate aesthetic & moral values that do not demonstrate *agape* love to others.

Reality you try to create

The more you move away from reality as it is to a humanistic worldview you try to create, assimilate, or embrace, the more intellectual and existential tension you will experience. Why? You are not only attempting to live out a man-made worldview while ignoring the God-given reality you are actually in, but you are also not able to generate values that are strong enough to support, nourish, & sustain your personhood, family, environment, work, & society.

Reality as it is created & sustained by the infinite-personal God:

Thus, flowing from God’s disclosure, are “true truth,” moral values, duties, virtues, accountability, & aesthetics, personal identity, existential completeness, civic & social responsibility, & exercise of creativity, innovation, legacy worth having, preservation, restraint of evil, & wise, balanced stewardship of all things (e.g., the arts, cultural context, government, work, scientific development, time, & environment in which we are embedded).

We can’t make our own reality and live in it.

Reality: The product of time, energy, and chance? What are we? How do we best account for unity and diversity we see all around us. Is human progress really inevitable? What about ultimate fulfillment, hope, identity, meaning, purpose, & significance?

Flowing from our finite condition, we are the measure of all things. But what moral, aesthetic, and social values can we generate given our frailties, our selfish propensities, our intellectual limitations, and pressures of life in view of experiential moments of stability and instability? Incompleteness within our personhood remains.