

## An Educational Vision: Truth, Goodness, Beauty

Genesis 2:4-25

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To be human is to be animated and oriented by some vision of "the good life."

### I. A Vision of Glory

Though smoke often obscures our vision of the good life, still we have a sense of what life is supposed to be like. And the reason we know this is that God has created us in His image, created us with receptors that enable us to taste and long for the glory that once was. We have a longing for Eden, a longing for paradise, a longing for glory.

### II. Imago Dei

- A. Mind (2:7)
- B. Conscience (2:16-17)
- C. Imagination (2:9, 20, 23)

### III. Application

#### A. Transcendentals and Receptors

These receptors enable us to perceive \_\_\_\_\_ – realities, truths that exist separate from our perception of them. Mind, conscience, and imagination enable us to perceive and appreciate and embrace glory; used rightly they enable us to give attention and praise where it is due – to that which is true, that which is good, and that which is beautiful.

#### B. The Golden Triad

1. Truth (cf. Ex 34:6; Ps 119:151, 160; Jn 14:6; 2 Pet 1:16)

As a human being you have a mind, you are a \_\_\_\_\_ being. Why has God given you a mind? In order that you might grasp the \_\_\_\_\_. He has given you a mind in order that you might come to embrace what is true and reject what is false. Truth exists because God exists. God is Truth.

How do we cultivate our minds?

- a. Read the Word (cf. Ps 119:151, 160; Jn 17:17; 1 Tim 3:15)
- b. Study the World (cf. 1 Kgs 4:29-34)

2. Goodness (cf. Ex 34:6; Is 5:20; Rom 2:4, 14; 1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 3:16-17)

As a human being you have a conscience, you are a \_\_\_\_\_ being. Why has God given you a conscience? In order that you might understand and embrace what is good and right. “*Conscience is the built-in power of our minds to pass moral judgments on ourselves, approving or disapproving our actions, thoughts, and plans, and telling us, if what we have done is assessed as wrong, that we deserve to suffer for it.*” Your conscience enables you to apprehend and embrace what is \_\_\_\_\_. Goodness exists because God exists. God is Good.

How do we cultivate our consciences?

- a. Read the Word (cf. Ps 119:172; 1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
  
- b. Study the World (cf. Acts 14:14-17; 17:22-31; Titus 1:12-13)

3. Beauty (cf. Ex 28:2; Ps 27:4; 29:2; 84:1; 90:17)

As a human being you have an \_\_\_\_\_, you are an aesthetic being. Why has God given you an imagination? In order to understand and embrace what is beautiful and lovely. Your imagination enables you to apprehend and embrace what is beautiful. Beauty exists because God exists. God is Beautiful.

How do we cultivate our imaginations?

- a. Read the Word (cf. Ps 19:10; 119:37; Is 28:15; Zech 9:16-17)
  
- b. Study the World (cf. Job 40:10; Ps 19:1ff; Song 6:4; 7:1; Is 13:19)

C. Think on These Things (Phil 4:8 cf. Prov 11:22; 25:11)

*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*

#### IV. Conclusion

- A **mind** to embrace \_\_\_\_\_;
- A **conscience** to embrace \_\_\_\_\_;
- An **imagination** to embrace \_\_\_\_\_.