Presuppositions, Truth and Feelings

I want to introduce you to some people. Some of these will have names you know, some of them will have ideas you are familiar with, and some - you may have never heard of them or their ideas, but you use their phrases everyday (Dissecting the Heart, p.20, fn19)..

— 1841 - “In the words of the mythical Titan Prometheus—"In simple words, I hate the pack of gods"—as philosophy's own stance "against all heavenly and earthly gods who do not acknowledge human self-consciousness as the highest divinity” [MARX] (google search, 11.15.2026)
— 1844 - "The more of himself man attributes to God, the less he has left in himself” and “the denial of God not as an end goal, but as a starting point for human liberation.” [MARX] (google search, 11.15.2026)
— God a fantasy, based on the infantile need for a dominant father figure. [FREUD]
— God is an undeniable, empirical and visceral experience [JUNG]
— spiritual fulfillment comes from psychological growth, human potential, and connection rather than adherence to supernatural deities or ecclesiastical rules. [MASLOW] He was a humanist.

Each view of God was different. But are they really different? Ultimately, every one, is the same. It was a humanist. How do they know their view of god was right? They would and could ask you and I the same question. How do we know?

Allow me to give you an answer to this.

A deep, grounding **assumption** about reality, what exists and how life works. Beyond the reach of evidence. — PRESUPPOSITION. (Cornelius Van Til - no brute facts, nothing that stands on its own but is interpreted through a worldview.)

Their presupposition: God as He has described himself doesn’t exit (theology). Man is how they envision him (anthropology). Truth is what they make truth to be (epistemology).

Presuppositions, Truth and Feelings

Our presupposition: God is exactly and in some areas of our human understanding, mysteriously as He describes himself (theology). Mankind is exactly as God has described us (anthropology). Truth is exactly what God claims truth to be (His word - scripture - epistemology).

But we don't believe what they, believe and we do believe our presuppositions.

Do we?

Let me introduce you to two more guys.

Stan Jones and Richard Butman

"While the Bible provides us with life's most important and ultimate answers as well as the starting points for knowledge of the human condition, it is not an all-sufficient guide for the discipline of counseling. The Bible is inspired and precious, but it is also a revelation of limited scope, the main concern of which is religious in its presentation of God's redemptive plan for people and the great doctrines of the faith."[21] … God had not revealed in the Bible all that was needed to construct a system of counseling truth and practice.[22] A system of counseling needed to be informed by Scripture, but it could only be constructed in dialogue with and by assimilation of the secular psychologies.[23] Counseling wisdom depended on the program to integrate psychology and theology into the thought and practice of professional psychotherapists."

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Jeremiah 2:13: "My people have done two evils: They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

2 Corinthians 6:14–15 LSB "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?"

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"The word *secular pastoral worker* might well serve as a general formula for describing the function which the analyst, whether doctor or layman, has to perform in his relationship with the public." —Freud

"Patients force the psychotherapist into the role of a priest. They expect and demand of him that he shall free them from their distress. This is why we psychotherapists must occupy ourselves with **problems which, properly speaking, belong to the theologian** — with *questions of meaning, questions of why I am here, questions of what is wrong with me, questions of what I ought to be, questions of how do I fix this*." — Carl Jung.

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Presupposition 1 — How does God Describe himself?

Creator - personal, involved, aware

Genesis 1 (v.3, 5, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 31) 2:7, 2:22 formed/fashioned

Nehemiah 9:6; Job 31:15; Ps. 22:10, 33:6, 139:13; Is. 44:2, 24, 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11

Provider/Sustainer - upholder, never sleeps

Acts 17:24-28;

Psalm 3:5; Psalm 55:22 (Yahweh sustains me),
Psalm. 104:14-15, 24-30; 145: 15-16; (all wait for God to give them their food, satisfy desires.
Psalm 121; (where does my help come from? Keeper…keeps your soul)
Matthew 5:45; (sun rises on evil and good, rain on righteous and unrighteous)
Matthew 6:26, 31-33; (we worry about eat, drink, wear: God provides)

2 Corinthians 9:8;
“And God is able to make every grace abound to you, so that in everything at every time having every sufficiency, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”
Philippians 4:19; (fulfill all your needs, riches in Christ)
Colossians 1:17; (In Him all things hold together)
Hebrews 1:3; (upholds all things by the word of His power)
James 1:17 (every good thing, every perfect gift, given from above)

Presupposition 2 - state of mankind

Savior - Christ the Son (2nd person of the Trinity)

This is where it stops if you are not a Christian.
Maslow believed and some christian counselors operate as if man is ultimately good. Some believe we are blank slates are are only affected by our environments and relationships.
God’s view of mankind is very different.
Genesis 1, Genesis 3,
Mark 1:15
GOSPELS,
Romans 3:10, 3:23, 6:23, Luke 13:3
Acts 20:21
Acts 16:31
Romans 10:17 (faith comes by hearing the word of Christ)
Colossians 2:6 (you received Jesus as Lord, SO WALK IN HIM)
Hebrews 11:6 (seek Him in all things)
What follows is not for you if you do not Repent and Believe in Christ.

Presupposition 3 - True Truth

Communicator - His Word

John 1:1 (Christ is the Word),

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3 (everything necessary for life and godliness);

John 16:13-15 (Spirit of Truth, guide you into ALL truth, He takes of Mine and discloses it to you);

John 17:17 (sanctifies us BY THE WORD, YOUR WORD IS TRUTH);

Hebrews 4:12 (living and active - penetrating);

Ephesians 6:17 (sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God)

James 1:22 (become does, not hearers only who delude themselves)

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Comforter - Holy Spirit's Role (3rd person of the Trinity)

John 14:16 (given another advocate);
John 16:13-15 (Spirit of Truth, guide you into ALL truth, He takes of Mine and discloses it to you);
John 14:26 (teach you all things);
16:13 (guide you into all truth [16:7-11]);
Acts 1:8 (empowers God's people);
Romans 8:13 (live by the Spirit puts to death the practices of the body - entire chapter);
1 Corinthians 2:5 (faith not in men, but in God); 2:10 (revealed through the Spirit); 2:12 (Spirit of God, not the world); 2:14 (can't accept it, check your salvation);
2 Corinthians 3:5 (our sufficiency comes from God, Spirit gives Life);
2 Corinthians 3:12-18 (Spirit removed the veil, freedom, being transformed);
Galatians 5:16-26 ([Colossians 3:5] walk {NT the word walk is a simple way to say, HOW YOU LIVE} by the spirit, flesh against the Spirit, deeds of flesh, fruit of the Spirit);

What now?
Are we worshiping this God we claim to know? Are we living in the understanding of who we are and that our hearts are fallen and that our desires are fleshly? Are we living in the understanding of God's truth, applying His truth directly to these areas that we struggle? Some have said to me, I have prayed about this issue, or I do my quiet time or read my bible everyday, or I go to church every time the doors are open or I serve as a homegroup leader, a Sunday school teacher, I set up chairs, I work in the nursery, go on the prayer walk or to the abortion clinic and nothing has changed. See, God/the Bible etc isn't enough.

Principle 1: since we are depraved, fallen and desperately wicked, We cannot trust our feelings.
This goes right down into how we speak and think. We are all psychologized to some level. Think about your thoughts and words. Feelings are a big issue for christians. The world, psychologies, validate all of our feelings as if they are ultimate truth. What does scripture say? Feelings are explained in the Bible, but the word feelings, the way we understand it, is not used. The bible uses words like: affections, desires, passions, lusts.

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Mark 4:19 (chokes the word);

Galatians 5:24 (crucified passions and desires);

Ephesians 2:3 (**lusts** of the flesh, desires of the flesh and the mind);

- **1 John 2:16 (ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD)**
- Romans 13:14 (no provision for the flesh and its lusts)
- Galatians 5:16-17 (desires of flesh, against the Spirit)
- Ephesians 2:22 (dwelling of God in the Spirit)
- Ephesians 4:22 (lusts of deceit, renewed in the spirit of your mind)
- James 1:14-15 (each is tempted, carried away by **his own** lusts)
- James 4:1-3 (source of quarrels, your pleasures)
- 1 Peter 1:14 (not being confirmed to former lusts)
- 2 Peter 1:4 (escape the corruption in the world by lust)

2 Timothy 4:3 (teachers according to their own desires); (do you go somewhere else because they teach differently/disagreement from what your elders teach here at Grace)

Romans 1:26 (dishonorable passions);

Romans 7:5 (sinful passions);

Titus 2:12 (denying ungodliness and worldly desire)

Principle 2: Investigate your feelings according to what the word says.

2 Corinthians 10: 3-6 (Take every thought captive)

1. Investigate your feelings according what the Word says. Compare them to what the word says.

Principle 3: Don't just believe it, do it. It's time for obedience.

Galatians 5:16-18 (desires and Spirit are in competition);

Galatians 5:19-21 (would your feelings fit here?);

Philippians 4:6 (anxious much?);

Galatians 5:24-25 (crucify passions and desires - walk in step with the Spirit)

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Application: What does take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ look like

PUT off:

A. Colossians 3:5 (earthly members dead);
B. Colossians 3:8-9/Galatians 5:19-21/Ephesians 4:17-19;
C. Ephesians 4:22 (lusts of deceit)

PUT on:

D. Colossians 3:10
E. Galatians 5:22-26,
F. Ephesians 4:23-24

Practical walk through Galatians 5, close with Philippians 4:8-9.

Sources:

Legacy Standard Bible
Dissecting the Heart, David Powlison & Pierce Taylor Hibbs
Seeing with New Eyes, David Powlison
Committed to Craftsmanship, Jay Adams
What To Do On Thursday? Jay Adams
Presuppositions of Biblical Counseling, Lou Priolo
The Biblical Counseling Movement, David Powslison
The Biblical Counseling Movement After Adams, Heath Lambert
Dale Johnson address to ACBC 50th Conference

Ephesians 6:10-17 (see the armor as the truth in different forms)

v.14:

— girded your loins with the truth (John 17:17, sanctify them by the truth, YOUR word is truth.

— Breastplate of righteousness (protecting the heart) Hebrews 5:13, Psalm 119:137-160

v.15:

— the gospel of peace (shod your feet - Psalm. 119:105) John 14:27, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:14-16, Micah 5:5, Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:15

v.16:

— Shield of faith - Romans 10:17

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v.17 :

— Helmet of Salvation - Romans 10:17, 2 Timothy 3:15

— The Sword of the Spirit - Which is the word of God. Hebrews 4:12 (judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart)