

The History of Ideas

First: reality
second: responsibility

The devolution of Human thought

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the **mercies** of God, that you **present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

When we orient our thinking to the authority of God's word

Present, Passive, Imperative

2 And do not be conformed to this world,

Present, Passive, Imperative

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable and perfect** will of God.

By living out our transformed thinking we demonstrate God's will to be good, acceptable, and the quality of spiritual maturity that God is pleased with.

Matthew 5:3-6 (NKJV)

5 Blessed are the **meek** For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those **who hunger and thirst for righteousness**. For they shall be filled.

Psalm 37:31 (NKJV)

31 But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Ultimate Reality:

God is distinct from creation

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The infinity of God applies to his knowledge. We call this omniscience (in Him resides, and is the origin of all knowledge, of all things, at all times and for all time)

In contrast to God who created all, man is finite: man has to learn, and will always throughout the years be learning.

The History of Ideas:

Because of the history of ideas, and the unfortunate, unchangeable influence of Aristotle, Plato and Aristotelian philosophy upon Christian theology, this question will continuously have to be asked: I will not go crazy because our language, our thought patterns, our thought patterns, our thought patterns are and will probably always be significantly influenced by the thinkers who formed part of the birth of Western philosophy.

When we orient our thinking to the authority of God's word

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Present, Passive, Imperative

2 And do not be conformed to this world,

Present, Passive, Imperative

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

How do we know what we know?

Pre-modernists: are we before the 1600s rather **pre-modern** Attainment that man could arrive to an ultimate truth.

Postmodernism

Postmodernism is a reaction to modernism just as modernism is a reaction to premodernism. Before the 1600s, or as we called premodern, people in the West lived with the belief in a transcendent God and the supernatural realm. The belief in a theistic God gave the premodern man his basis for moral absolutes, rationality, human dignity, and objective truth.

Against the great knowledge (Augustine 354-430) released premodern man often he said, "I believe that I may understand." In his view, God was the origin of knowledge and education provided the means through which premodern man could properly interpret reality and human experience.¹

Basic questions for every worldview:

1. What is ultimate reality?
2. What is the nature of external reality? (Is man self-governing or is there an external authority?)
3. What is mankind?
4. What happens when a person dies?
5. How do we know what we know? Can we know anything for certainty?
6. How do we know right from wrong?
7. Is a meaning to history?

2 Worldviews

SATANIC CHANGING Human arguments

GODLY TRUTH

Modernism

Through man's great ability to reason, he can come to an ultimate knowledge of truth

The Enlightenment which came to be known as **Modernism**, instigated by **René Descartes** (1596-1650), who was Catholic, was a rationalist as well as **Plato** (427-347 BC)

Rationalists: All knowledge comes from within, from man's ability to reason

Plato: Was a polytheist = he believed in many gods

Many of the ancient pagan philosophers, including Plato, held that God and the world co-existed eternally, though in opposition to each other and incapable of conclusion by mere **logic**, which formed a peculiar feature of this system.

Epistemology: is a study meaning that is a philosophy. Epistemology, in its view regular questioning them, of

Empiricists: All knowledge is obtained to our senses, and an ultimate knowledge of truth is attainable through what we observed

Hume, David (1711-1776)

Scottish historian and philosopher, introduced **empiricism**

Hume's major work was in epistemology, where he argued that men have no **a priori** knowledge of fact and no empirically based knowledge of facts beyond their present experience. Thus, while people know the experience they presently have, this provides no foundation for proving anything else. The problem, he pointed out, is that any reference to things beyond present experience depends on a cause-effect notion of which experience itself leaves us ignorant. This circular conclusion affects the traditional arguments for the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and almost every other belief we might hold.

No Hume's last word is not of skepticism but of belief. That is, while we cannot prove even that material things exist outside our present experience, we properly believe that they do. Proposed experiences exist in us as mental representations and beliefs we call "beliefs." And while he criticized the理性 arguments in his *Discourse Concerning Natural Religion*, he described the psychological grounds of religious belief in *The Natural History of Religion*. His famous essay on miracles appeared in the same context. Defining a miracle as "a violation of natural law" he argued that belief in natural laws is so well established by repeated experience that only experiences of greater regularity or when a miracle would upset that belief and lead one to believe in miracles. But the evidence offered, he reasoned, he was, is not that great. It is easily, incoherent, born out of ordinary places, by prejudiced observers. How could it overcome the better established belief in natural natural laws?

Hume was indeed skeptical of man's ability to know but he allowed the legitimacy of beliefs that have psychological rather than logical grounds. But, it is argued, Hume had too limited a conception of belief. On his criterion, much of history would be quite unbelievable. But his skepticism elicited work in the psychology and justification of belief that continues to the present day.

Postmodernism:

Immanuel Kant in the late 1700s brought in **idealism**

Kant claimed that space and time are forms we impose on sense experience, and that concepts like substance and causation are subjective categories we bring to all our judgments. Thus the scientific world of space-time substances and causal relations is only the way things appear to us, subjectively structured (the "phenomenal"), but necessarily the way things are in themselves (the "noumenal") apart from the observer. Science and the similar kinds of knowledge, Enlightenment philosophy claimed, tell us only about appearances, and not about reality.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844¹⁹ or 1844²⁰ - 1900) (Nietzsche, Wilhelm, 1844¹⁹ - 1900) 19 October 1844 – 25 August 1900) was a German philosopher, cultural critic, poet, composer, and Latin and Greek scholar. He wrote several critical texts on religion, morality, contemporary culture, philosophy, and science, displaying a fondness for metaphor²¹ and irony.

Nietzsche's key ideas include perspectivism, the will to power, master-slave morality, the death of God, the Übermensch, and eternal recurrence. One of the key tenets of his philosophy is "the affirmation", which embraces the realities of the world in which we live over the idea of a world beyond. It further champions the creative powers of the individual to strive beyond social, cultural, and moral constraints.²² Nietzsche's attitude towards religion and morality was marked with atheism, **apostasy**, and nihilism; he considered them to be human creations ultimately produced by ressentiment and faith rather than objective means to alleviate those pains. His radical questioning of the value and objectivity of truth has been the focus of extensive commentary, and his influence remains substantial, especially in schools of continental philosophy such as **deconstruction**, postmodernism, and post-structuralism. His ideas of individual overcoming and transcendence beyond structure and context have had a profound impact on late twentieth and early-twenty-first century thinkers, who have used these concepts as points of departure in the development of their philosophies.²⁰

Nietzsche began his career as a classical philologist—a scholar of Greek and Roman textual criticism—before turning to philosophy. In 1868, at age 24, he became the youngest-ever occupant of the Chair of Classical Philology at the University of Basel. He resigned in 1879 due to health problems that plagued him most of his life. In 1889, at age 44, he suffered a collapse and a complete loss of his mental faculties. The breakdown was now ascribed to several general periods due to tertiary syphilis, but this diagnosis has come into question.²³ Nietzsche lived his remaining years in the care of his mother (until her death in 1897) and then his sister Elisabeth Förster-Nietzsche. He died in 1900 of what was thought to be a stroke, however re-examination of Nietzsche's medical evaluation papers show that he **almost certainly died of brain cancer**.

Dewick, Charles Robert (1809–1882)

English naturalist who proposed the theory of natural selection

All man's attempts at perfection in the area of ultimate knowledge and ethics, like his agonizing downward in a deeper, darker, grossly degenerate abyss. He is utterly helpless, in the quicksand of rebellion, he is swallowed up in the demonic influence of his father the devil.

The above mentioned human systems of thought, have permeated the societies of the world, and are embedded throughout the beliefs of Christians.

Environmentalism:

Man, is God's ultimate creation in the universe

God created man so he could understand His communication:

Genesis 1:26–27 (NKJV)

26 Then God said, **Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**

let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

In contrast to the pagan view of **environmentalism** man is to take advantage of all the available natural resources responsibly and efficiently!

God has placed man over the animals over the plants, over matter and energy. To rule over the universe responsibly.

The suppressors of truth invent their own god:

From man's not the empirical position, he sets himself as the ultimate determiner of truth!

Romans 1:24–25 (NKJV)

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who **exchanged** the truth of God for the lie, and **worshiped and served the Creature** rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

original man's nature was destroyed

Dictionary
perspective: a system of subjective ideas; a tendency to interpret events or arguments in subjective terms, or to exaggerate the importance of psychological factors.

Dictionary
environmentalism: a system of subjective ideas; a tendency to interpret events or arguments in subjective terms, or to exaggerate the importance of psychological factors.

Dictionary
Übermensch (German) [ˈuːbɐˈmɛnʃ] the ideal superior man of the future who could rise above conventional Christian morality to create and impose his own values, originally described by Nietzsche in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883–85). Also called **superman**, **overman**.

10. A Priori and A Posteriori

Closely related to the terms inductive and deductive are the terms a posteriori and a priori. The literal meaning of these terms is "from that which follows or is subsequent," and "from that which is before," respectively. In a general method is one that is practically identical with the empirical or inductive method. The a posteriori is usually identified with the deductive method. We need only observe that a priori reasoning, and a posteriori reasoning, are equally used by Christian if these terms are understood in their historical sense. As such they undermine man's ability in the universe but do not negate with the significance of God above the universe.