

CRITICAL THINKING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	2
SECTION 1 - REALITY VS. FANTASY	2
1A - Reality (Fact)	2
1A-1 - Physical reality	2
1A-2 - Mental reality	3
1A-3 - Spiritual reality	3
1B - Fantasy (Fiction)	4
1B-1 - The Circle	4
1B-2 - Alice in Wonderland.....	4
1B-3 - The Possibility of a Divine Lie.....	4
SECTION 2 - OPPOSITES	5
2A - Polar Opposites	6
2A-1 - Divinity vs. Humanity	6
2A-1A - Divinity's Reality	6
2A-1B - Differences Between Divinity and Humanity.....	6
2A-1C - Reification.....	7
2A-2 - Good vs. Evil.....	9
2A-3 - Male vs. Female	10
2A-3A - Biological differences.....	10
2A-3B - Physical & psychological differences.....	11
2A-3C - Sex Changes.....	11
2A-3D - Role differences.....	11
2A-4 - Comment on Satan's Lie	14
2A-5A - Good vs. Evil	15
2A-5B - Divinity vs Humanity	15
2A-5C - Male vs. Female.....	15
2B - Spectrums.....	15
2B-1 - Objective Spectrums.....	15
2B-2 - Subjective Spectrums	16
SECTION 3 - CONFUSION	17

PREAMBLE

As I listen to the public debates about important issues in America today, I encounter less and less examples of sound, critical thinking. I fear that critical thinking is becoming extinct. Why is this happening?

First, I believe that critical thinking depends on the ability to differentiate between two classes of facts: Category 1 - Polar Opposites without intermediate states and Category 2 - Spectrums with intermediate states that stretch between two extremes. If a person is unable to distinguish between these two categories, he or she will soon be unable to distinguish between fact and fiction or, in other words, reality and fantasy, which is a good definition of insanity.

Second, I argue here that there is an intentional effort by a segment of our society to move some very important public issues from Category 1 to Category 2 and thereby to disable the average person's ability to think critically about these issues and thereby render him or her unable to differentiate between fact and fiction or reality and fantasy. Large numbers of Americans have already reached this state, and our entire society is exhibiting alarming signs of going insane.

SECTION 1 - REALITY VS. FANTASY

First, I need to establish exactly what I mean by the two sets of words: (1) "fact" or "reality" and (2) "fiction" or "fantasy." I will be using the two words within each set inter-changeably.

1A - REALITY (FACT)

Based on the biblical revelation that each person consists of a body, a mind, and a spirit, I believe that there are three aspects of reality, which are accessible to each person in Universe: a physical reality, a mental reality, and a spiritual reality.¹

1A-1 - Physical reality

¹ Alfred Korzybski in Science and Sanity (1933) emphasized that attempting to define things with words (a) always leaves something out and (b) is eventually futile because the definition ends up running out of words and turning to words that have already been used in the definition. At that point, the definer must abandon the verbal world and produce non-verbal examples of what he is talking about. For instance, if he is talking about dogs, he must be clear that dogs is a verbal concept which does not exist in physical reality, but refers to the class of life represented by dog 1 (his own cocker spaniel), dog 2 (his daughter's German shepherd), dog 3 (his neighbor's bulldog), etc. Korzybski's observation is useful to a point, but it falls seriously short when the subject of discussion turns to the immaterial or metaphysical realm, the existence of which Korzybski rejected. I am confident that such a realm exists, because the immensity, complexity, and beauty of Universe is inexplicable without a Divine Architect & Author, a Divine Maker & Manager, and a Divine Energizer & Enlivener (see section B1a) below).

Physical reality is what we perceive with our five, bodily senses: seeing, smelling, hearing, tasting, and touching. It is fixed in the sense that it is subject to and limited by forces outside of us. It is public in the sense that we share it with others automatically, whether we wish to do so or not. We might describe it as (a) natural, (b) material, (c) concrete, and (d) objectively perceived.

1A-2 - Mental reality

Mental reality is what we perceive with our minds (not to be confused with our brains). It is changeable in the sense that it is subject to or bounded by, not forces outside of us, but only by our own, individual imaginations. It is private in the sense that we share it with others only when we wish to do so. We might describe it as (a) natural, (b) immaterial, (c) abstract, conceptual, or theoretical, and (d) subjectively perceived.

1A-3 - Spiritual reality

Here I need to make a very important point. Before the 19th century, most people knew and readily acknowledged that (a) God exists, (b) God created and manages Universe, (c) a metaphysical realm exists which is inhabited by God, angels, and demons, and (d) each person possesses a metaphysical component, which is called his spirit. Under the impact of Darwin's theory of macroevolution, however, first clergymen wishing to appear *au courant* with the latest scientific theories and then scientists themselves began defining science solely in physical or materialistic terms. Finally, the logical positivists among philosophers provided a sophisticated argument for rejecting the reality of the metaphysical realm by asserting that only words with physical referents have meaning. Thus, words like "god," "angels," and "demons," because their referents cannot be produced on demand, are meaningless and need to be removed from the *cognoscenti's* vocabulary. Although most branches of modern science were established and developed by ardent Christians, the pressure to conform soon led most scientists to become atheists and to reject what most men had known for six millennia: (a) God exists and (b) God was, is, and always will be the most important person and force in Universe. The new, Godless world view was codified in such documents as *The Humanist Manifesto* (1933), which was updated by fervent atheists in 1973 and 2003.² Since then, mostly under the impact of the obvious complexity, order, and variety of cellular life which has been revealed to us by micro-biologists and can only be explained as the product of a Divine Designer, more and more scientists are abandoning the Godless point of view. Thus, I make no apology for what follows.

Spiritual reality is what we perceive with our spirits after they have been quickened by God-the-Holy Spirit in the process of being born-again.³ It is fixed in the sense that it is subject to and limited by forces outside of us. It is private in the sense that we share it with others only when we wish to do so. Although very difficult to describe, we might

² I admit to subscribing to the 1933 version during my junior year in college, when Brand Blanchard (one of its drafters) was introducing me to philosophy, but I abandoned it in 1980 when God opened my eyes and ears to the truth.

³ See my blog of January 16, 2017 - *Reflections on the makeup of mankind*.

say that it is (a) supernatural, (b) immaterial, (c) transcendent, and (d) subjectively perceived.

1B - FANTASY (FICTION)

Fantasy is easier to describe than reality. Its salient characteristic is that, while it can exist in mental reality, it does not and cannot exist in physical reality or spiritual reality.

To make clear what I am talking about, I will use three examples: (1) the circle, (2) Alice, the central character in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking Glass (1871) by Lewis Carroll (the penname of Charles L. Dodgson), and (3) the possibility of a divine lie.

1B-1 - The Circle

The circle is familiar to everyone, but not everyone understands that it does not and cannot exist in physical reality. It only exists in people's minds. Nonetheless, it is a very useful concept - or fantasy. It can be defined as a line that surrounds a point, always remaining a constant or fixed distance from that point through all 360 degrees of the compass. If you draw a circle on a piece of paper with a compass and graphite pencil, however, it may look perfect to you, but if you examine it with a magnifying glass, you will see a trail of individual, graphite particles, dense at its center, but fuzzy at its two edges. If you could connect the interior or exterior particles with lines, you would perceive a polygon (albeit a polygon with a large, but finite number of sides). You would *never* see a circle.

1B-2 - Alice in Wonderland

Alice is also familiar to nearly everyone, but not everyone (the exceptions are mostly small children) realizes that she is not real. She is a delightful fantasy. She was originally conceived by Lewis Carroll in his mind and then described on paper verbally by Carroll and visually by John Tenniel. She leaves an indelible impression on nearly everyone who reads the books about her, but she *never* existed. A real girl cannot fall into a rabbit hole, shrink in size, converse with animals, and step through a mirror into an alternate world.

1B-3 - The Possibility of a Divine Lie

Since the Bible is the Word of God written, any falsehood in it would be a divine lie, the possibility of which, many people claim, exists. Needless to say, I regard a divine lie as an impossibility. *I am unshakably convinced that the Bible is completely trustworthy in all its particulars. Thus I treat whatever I find in the Bible as fact.* Now here are several biblical verses which indicate that God does not lie:

- Moses wrote, "God is not a man, that He should lie..." (KJ21 Numbers 23:19).

- Anonymous wrote, concerning God, “...the Strength of Israel will not lie..., for He is not a man.” (KJ21 1 Samuel 15:29).
- David quotes God as saying, “My covenant I will not break, nor alter the things which have gone out from My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness that I will not lie unto David” (KJ21 Psalm 89:34-35).
- John wrote, “...Jesus said to him, ‘I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one cometh unto the Father but by Me.’” (KJ21 John 14:6).
- Anonymous wrote, “...it was impossible for God to lie...” (KJ21 Hebrews 6:18).

Not only does God not lie, but in His incarnation as Jesus of Nazareth, God-the-Son, the Jewish Messiah, He did not sin in any way. Consider the following:

- Matthew quoted Judas as saying, “I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood” of Christ (KJ21 Matthew 27:4).
- Luke quoted the Roman Centurion at Golgotha as saying of Christ, “Certainly this was a righteous man!” (KJ21 Luke 23:47).
- John quoted Christ Himself as saying, “...the Father hath not left Me alone, for I do always those things that please him” (KJ21 John 8:29).
- John quoted Pilate as saying of Christ, “I find in Him no fault at all” (KJ21 John 18:38) and “...I find no fault in Him” (KJ21 John 19:4).
- Paul said that Christ “...knew no sin” (KJ21 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Anonymous wrote that Christ “...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (KJ21 Hebrews 4:15).
- Peter said that “...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, from you vain way of living which ye received by tradition from your fathers, but the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...” (KJ21 1 Peter 1:18-19) and Christ “...did no sin” (KJV 1 Peter 2:22).
- John said of Christ that “...in Him is no sin (KJ21 1 John 3:5).

Also worth mentioning is what John wrote concerning the texts that I have been quoting: “...the Scripture cannot be broken...” is (KJ21 John 10:35).

SECTION 2 - OPPOSITES

Now much of the world exhibits two kinds of binary categories: (1) polar opposites without intermediate gradations - e.g. positive and negative charges in electrostatics⁴ - and (2) spectrums with gradations between two extremes - e.g. a beam of light which passes through a prism emerges as a spectrum of colors fading into pure white light at one end and near darkness at the other end.

⁴ You might point out that there is a neutral condition between a positive charge and a negative charge. In a sense, yes, but it lies outside the category of electric charges. It is chargeless.

2A - POLAR OPPOSITES

Some of the most important facts in Universe are polar opposites that have no intermediate gradations: examples of such are (a) divinity vs. humanity, (b) good vs. evil, and (c) male vs. female. I will consider each of these in some detail.

2A-1 - Divinity vs. Humanity

Regarding the first set of polar opposites, divinity vs. humanity, I need to deal with divinity's reality.

2A-1A - Divinity's Reality

The Bible tells that us that “... *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*”⁵ I cannot possibly add to that. Everyone - even the rabid atheist - knows that God exists.

2A-1B - Differences Between Divinity and Humanity

Regarding information about God and the difference between God and humans, the Bible is quite clear on the matter.

- ***Divinity*** - The Bible tells us that God's attributes are unlimited. He is (a) eternal, (b) holy, (c) immutable, (d) incomprehensible, (e) infallible, (f) omnipotent, (g) omnipresent, (h) omniscient, (i) perfect, (j) reliable, (k) self-sufficient, (l) transcendent or separate from his creation, (m) triune, (n) unlimited, and (o) unquestionable - i.e. unaccountable to anyone - etc. The Bible also tells us that God's traits are unlimited. He is all (a) fair, (b) generous, (c) just, (d) kind, (e) loving, (f) merciful, (g) patient, (h) reliable, and (i) truthful.
- ***Humanity*** - The Bible and experience tell us that humans possess none of the divine attributes. Humans are (a) mortal, (b) sinful, (c) changeable, (d) knowable, (e) fallible, (f) weak, (g) always in one location at a time, (h) ignorant, (i) imperfect, (j) unreliable, (k) dependent, (l) part of God's creation, (m) tripartite, but not triune, (n) limited, and (o) questionable by or accountable to God.

⁵ ESV Romans 1:18-23.

Moreover humans possess divine traits only to a very limited degree. Humans often exhibit their opposites; they can be (a) unfair, (b) selfish, (c) unjust, (d) unkind, (e) hateful, (f) unmerciful, (g) impatient, (h) unreliable, and (i) untruthful.

Some Christians might argue that Jesus, God-the Son, was and is an exception to this dichotomy. I can only point out that Jesus does not fall at a midpoint between divinity and humanity. He does not represent a gradation between the two categories. The Bible tells us that He is simultaneously fully divine and fully human. Moreover, while becoming incarnate in a human body, I believe that, throughout his time on earth, He remained completely divine, (a) retaining all His divine attributes, (b) knowing exactly how to behave as an infant, a boy, a youth, and an adult, and (c) upholding Universe by the power of His Word, even as a babe in the manger.⁶ In this, He was and always will be unique.

2A-1C - Reification

In addition to the above list of differences between divinity and humanity, there is another difference that is so important and so overlooked that I want to consider it alone. This difference has to do with two important distinctions:

- The first distinction is between concepts and objects. Concepts are immaterial. They are verbal or mathematical and only exist in someone's mind. They are subjectively perceived. Objects are material. They are non-verbal or non-mathematical, and only exist in reality - i.e. outside anyone's mind. They are objectively perceived.
- The second distinction is between divine concepts and human concepts. God has the ability to translate his concepts into reality, and we must treat them as such when he has done so. Humans cannot translate their concepts into reality, and we must not treat them as such.

The verb "to reify" means to treat a mental concept as a material reality. It is useful in describing what humans can and cannot do with concepts. Divine concepts must be reified. Human concepts must not be reified.

God can translate the concepts in his mind into reality. God-the-Son has been translating God-the-Father's Design and Script for Universe into reality for the last 5,999 years (3977 BC to 2021 AD). Here are two examples:

- On Day 1 of Creation Week, God-the-Son translated God-the-Father's Design for Universe (concept) into reality. He spoke, which constitutes the first cause, and Universe (reality) exploded into existence. That design is now fixed in reality. It cannot be changed by humans, only by God.

⁶ Colossians 1:8, Hebrews 1:3.

- On Day 6 of Creation Week, God-the-Son translated God-the-Father's Design for Mankind (concept), which specifies two genders (male and female), into reality. He did so in two phases: First, He spoke, and Adam (a real man) came into existence. Second, after He had given Adam (a) a proscription about what he must not do (eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil) and (b) a scientific task (identify and name the different species of animals), He molded Eve out of material that He took from Adam's side and brought Eve (a real woman) into existence, thereby completing God-the-Father's design for Mankind. That design is now fixed in reality. It cannot be changed by humans, only by God.

A human cannot translate concepts in his or her mind into reality. He must treat them as models. Here are some examples:

- If a human geo-physicist produces a mathematical formula (concept) to explain the moon's orbit around Earth (reality), it will be useful only to the extent that its description conforms to how God usually manages the moon's movements. It cannot be regarded as real or as having any effect on the moon's movements. It is a model. It can be changed by humans - and possibly improved. It can even advance human understanding of Universe in some respect. Nonetheless, it must not be reified.
- God's Word, the Bible, indicates that (a) his design for Mankind is bipolar - i.e. consisting of two genders (male and female)⁷ - and (b) his design for each person is tripartite - i.e. consisting of three parts (body, mind, and spirit).⁸ We have no trouble reifying the first, because the separation of Mankind into two genders is obvious, even to two year old boys and girls. Some of us have trouble reifying the second, because they insist that the physical world is the only reality, which eliminates the possibility of a person possessing a spiritual component. Nonetheless, all three parts of a person can be reified, because they derive from the Creator himself.

Sigmund Freud felt qualified to propose a different structure for the individual. Since Freud was an atheist, he dismissed the idea that a person possesses a spiritual component, and he reduced a person's makeup to a body and a psyche (mind or soul in the Bible). He then claimed that the psyche is tripartite, consisting of an *id*, an *ego*, and a *superego* that supposedly develop at different stages of our lives. Moreover, he reified these concepts and taught others to reify them as well, which turned the psychoanalysis of others into a profession that flourishes to this day.

⁷ Genesis 1:27.

⁸ See KJV 1 Thessalonians 5:23 indicates that a person consists of a (A) spirit, (B) soul, and (C) body. Commentaries on this tripartite nature suggest that the (B) soul consists of (B1) mind, (B2) will, and (B3) emotions, and the (B2) mind consists of (B2-A) a conscious part, which does our thinking and reasoning, and (B2B) an unconscious part, which, among other things, controls our bodily functions. I get uncomfortable going beyond our tripartite nature (body, mind/psyche/soul, and spirit), because what the Bible means by them is a bit vague - at least to me.

In addition, to restructuring the individual, Freud also meddled with morality. Since he was an immoral and sex-obsessed man who freely indulged in fornication and adultery, which were condemned by traditional morality (God's Seventh Commandment), he undoubtedly looked for a way to rid himself of any guilt that he felt in this regard. His solution was simple. He decided that the driving and overriding force in each person's psyche was sexual desire, and he began teaching that one of the prime goals of psychoanalysis should be the elimination of inhibitions that a patients might feel about indulging in his or her sexual desires. Of course this meant ignoring all of God's warnings about the destructive consequences of sinning sexually.

Needless to say, Freud's theory does not work very well. Some psychiatric patients spend significant amounts of their time and treasure seeing a psychiatrist three times a week for almost their entire lives, and they never get better. Moreover, his theory does much damage. It was merely a matter of time before someone like Alfred Kinsey came along, who indulged in and promoted every form of sexual deviancy, the consequences of which were countless ruined lives.

The damage wrought by the Freud-Kinsey partnership is a perfect example of the severe and ruinous consequence that reifying human concepts can wreak.

2A-2 - Good vs. Evil

Regarding the second set of polar opposites, God makes clear that he sets the rules. What he permits is good and right whereas what he prohibits is evil and wrong. God does not permit us to decide these things for ourselves because, having created us, he know us intimately. We will bend and eventually ignore our rules, at which point we will decide that "anything goes." Thus, he allows us no wiggle room - no gradations. Here I paraphrase his ten commandments, which appear in Exodus 20.

1. Do not honor - let alone worship - any god but Me, the Creator of Universe and all creatures in it, including you.
2. Do not manufacture or worship idols, even tiny, "good luck" charms or possessions like fame or fortune.
3. Do not misuse My name, even by using euphemisms like "egad" or resorting to other profanities or obscenities.
4. Do keep holy the sabbath day, dedicating it entirely to honoring me and resting from your work.
5. Do honor your parents, even if you think they did a poor job raising you or they abused you in some way.

6. Do not murder your neighbor, even a tiny baby just getting started in his or her mother's womb.
7. Do not commit adultery or be otherwise sexually impure, even if your spouse cannot gratify you and you and your neighbor's spouse fall madly in love.
8. Do not steal anything from your neighbor, even a simple pad or pencil from your employer at work.
9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbor, even one whose politics you abhor.
10. Do not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor, even when he or she flaunts it in an obvious attempt to make you jealous.

I have added some illustrations to the above commandments to make clear that there is no such thing as a slight, unimportant, or justified transgression of them. Moreover, just in case you do not get the picture yet, God's Word states, "...whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend on one point, he is guilty of all" (KJ21 James 2:10) and "...Be ye holy, for I am holy" (KJ21 1 Peter 1:16).

2A-3 - Male vs. Female

Regarding the third set of polar opposites, God's Word states, "...God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them" (KJ21 Genesis 1:27).

2A-3A - Biological differences

First, the above verse directs our attention to the most obvious aspect of life: the difference between male and female. God made all members of a species of life either male or female. He made Adam a male, with a penis and testicles; he made Eve a female, with breasts, a vagina, and a womb; and he makes all their descendants either male or female in like manner.

For six thousand years, everyone has known that (a) children are either boys or girls and (b) adults are either men or women. Recently microbiologists have discovered that each person's DNA consists of 23 pairs of chromosomes. One pair of chromosomes determines a person's gender. If the person's DNA carries both x and y chromosomes, the person is a male. If a person's DNA carries two x chromosomes, the person is a female. Moreover, this dichotomy is fixed. There is no gradation between the x and y chromosomes, and there is no third alternative. A person's sexual chromosomes are carried in every cell of his or her body and remain constant from the moment of his or her conception to his or her death. There is no escape from this bi-polar reality.

2A-3B - Physical & psychological differences

In addition, these sexual chromosomes produce different physical and psychological characteristics in men and women far beyond their obviously different reproductive organs. Unless a person's hormones are tinkered with, the person will exhibit the distinct physical characteristics and general behavior of either a male or a female human. Consider some of the physical differences: men tend to be larger, stronger, and hairier than women; men's voices tend to be lower than women's voices; and men's skin tends to be coarser than women's skin. Consider some of the psychological differences: women tend to be more passive and accepting than men, who are usually more aggressive and assertive than women; women tend to be more intuitive and emotional than men, who are usually more analytical and reserved than women; women tend to form collaborative groups to engage in activities like quilt-making or book-reading, in which communication often relates to a wide variety of matters, whereas men form hierarchical groups to engage in sports and combat, in which communication usually relates solely to the activity at hand. I don't pretend that these comparisons are comprehensive, but they are obvious and illustrate the complementary nature of the physical and psychological make-ups of men and women. Both their particular abilities and outlooks are required to create and maintain healthy families and communities.

2A-3C - Sex Changes

A closing comment on the current transgender movement, which is demanding acceptance by the rest of society today. If a boy decides that he wants to be a girl, he is seeking an impossibility. He can take hormones that will produce some feminine characteristic, and he can have his genitals surgically removed, thereby mutilating himself, but he cannot become a girl. Every cell in his body still carries a pair of x and y chromosomes. If others encourage him in his fantasy and make available to him surgery and medication that emasculate him, they are frustrating God's purposes for him and ensuring that the rest of his life will be troubled and often dysfunctional. Such encouragement is an extreme form of abuse and should be criminalized. All of the foregoing is also true in the case a girl who wants to be a boy.⁹

2A-3D - Role differences

Another area of unrest in our society is the feminist movement, which is demanding that society become gender-blind. The feminists want society to accept women as workers and leaders in every conceivable role in society despite the obvious, negative consequences of doing so. For example, the roles of firefighters, policemen, and soldiers requires sufficient strength to carry an injured partner or victim off the field and out of harm's way. The average 120 pound woman, weighed down with the gear of her trade, simply cannot carry a wounded and unconscious, 250 pound man anywhere; she is likely to get him and herself killed trying. In addition, her mere presence on the field is a

⁹ For further comments on this issue, see my blog of May 2, 2021 entitled, *Gender Choice - A Dangerous Delusion*.

distraction for her male peers, who are hard-wired to protect her from harm and are likely to view doing so as having priority over dealing with the common threat.

God's Word has much to say about men and women: their different natures, their different roles, etc.

- **First, God made Adam**, the man, using the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7).
- **Second, God placed Adam in a garden in Eden**, "...to dress it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).
- **Third, God issued a proscription to Adam** - he must not eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:16-17).
- **Fourth, God gave Adam a job** - a scientific or, more specifically, a taxonomic project, identifying and naming the species of animals and birds (Genesis 2:19-20). I often wonder why God made a priority of giving work to Adam before creating Eve, but I don't expect an explanation from him because he never explains himself.
- **Fifth, God made Eve**, the woman, using one of Adam's rib (Genesis 2:21-22),¹⁰ which God extracted from Adam to ensure that men and women share the same flesh, the same genes.
- **Sixth, God defined different, gender-specific roles for men and women** - Here, God tells us exactly why he made women. "*And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet for him'*" (Genesis 2:2:18). God made women to be "helpmetes" to their husbands. Moreover, he expected women to subordinate themselves to first their fathers and then their husbands, to whom they are given by their fathers. What is clear here is that there is an order to the creation of mankind, in which men and women fill different roles. God expects fathers/husbands to lead, protect, and provide for their wives and children, and he expects daughters to obey their fathers help their mothers and wives to obey and help their husbands and to nurture and raise their children. Consider the following passages from God's Word:
 - In 1 Corinthians 11:3,8-9, Paul wrote, "*...I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.... For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man*" (KJ21). Here Paul grounds his teaching in the order of creation and the reason which God gave us for creating women.

¹⁰ Interestingly, the rib turns out to be the only human bone which will grow back after part of it has been removed.

- In Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul also wrote, *“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband”* (KJV). Here, Paul grounds his teaching in Christ’s relationship with His Bride, the Church. Christ leads, loves, protects, and provides for His bride, even going so far as to lay down His life for her so that she can be without blemish when He takes her hand at the Marriage of the Lamb.¹¹ Note some important language here. God expects husbands to “love” and “cherish” their wives, just like Christ loves and cherishes His Church. God expects wives to “submit to” and “revere” their husbands, just like he expects the Church to submit to Jesus.

- In 1 Peter 3:1-6, Peter wrote, *“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, that, if any obey not the word, they also may be won without the Word by the conduct of the wives while they behold your chaste manner of living coupled with fear. When adorning yourselves, let it not be that outward adorning of braiding the hair, and of wearing gold, or of putting on apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. For after this manner in olden times the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands, even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord”* (KJ21).

One of the more interesting commentaries/testimonies on this issue can be found in Under the Mercy by Sheldon Vanauken.¹²

¹¹ Revelation 19:7.

¹² Under the Mercy was originally published in hardback by Thomas Nelson Inc., Nashville TN, in 1985; it was reprinted in paperback by Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 1988. See pages 178-179, 181-185, and 192-196.

In this age of shrill feminism, in which women (a) demand the unrestricted right to murder their own babies, (b) rail and bear false witness against men without proof, thereby damaging their victims' reputations and careers,¹³ and (c) insisting on their right to receive special treatment by society - all the while spewing out blasphemous, derogatory, hateful, and obscene language, the above may seem both quaint and offensive. I make no apology for the citations, however, because the Word of God is not only inviolate and cannot be broken, but it will judge us on the Day of Judgment. We best be aware of what it says.

2A-4 - Comment on Satan's Lie

Before God created Eve, "...the Lord God commanded [Adam], saying 'Of every tree of the garden, thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.'" ¹⁴ Notice two points regarding this proscription: First, it was strict, leaving no wiggle room. Adam could not even nibble at the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He could touch it, but he could not ingest it. Second, it left Adam free to do anything else.

Later, after God created Eve and presented her to Adam to be his wife, Adam undoubtedly told Eve what God had said to him regarding the fruit of the foregoing tree. Alas, as things turned out, like little children of every time and place, they would want to do the one thing which their parent had forbade them from doing.

Adam and Eve had no sooner started living together in the garden than Satan approached them¹⁵ in the form of a serpent. Instead of addressing Adam, the head of the human race and the first family, Satan addressed Eve, and Adam did not intervene.

Satan tempted Eve with the question, "Yea, hath God said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ¹⁶ This question was tricky. Technically, Satan was correct, in observing that God had told Adam that he must not eat of all the trees in the garden; he said that Adam could eat all of them but one. Satan was implying, however, that god was prohibiting Adam and Eve from eating all of the trees in the garden and therefore of being unreasonable.

Eve responded to Satan by saying that God had only prohibited them from eating the fruit of one tree, but then she added that God had said, "...neither shall ye touch it." ¹⁷ That was not what God had said to Adam. God had told him that he must not eat the forbidden fruit, not that he must not touch it. Nonetheless, Eve's mistake gave Satan the opportunity to issue the first lie: "Ye shall surely not die, for God doth know that in the day ye eat

¹³ The earliest account of this phenomenon can be found in Genesis 39 - the story of the false accusation against Joseph by Potiphar's wife.

¹⁴ KJV Genesis 2:16-17.

¹⁵ It is easy to miss the fact that Adam was with Eve when Satan tempted Eve; see Genesis 3:6.

¹⁶ KJV Genesis 3:2

¹⁷ KJV Genesis 3:3

thereof, then your eyes will be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”¹⁸

What is Satan doing here? Satan said to Eve, “...ye shall be as gods...”¹⁹ It is interesting that, in uttering the first recorded lie in history, Satan is blurring the distinctions within all three of the binary categories above: (a) the distinction between good and evil, (b) the gulf between divinity and humanity, and (c) the differing roles of men and women.

2A-5A - Good vs. Evil

First, Satan is blurring the distinction between good and evil, which God has defined for all eternity. These categories are fixed; they are not flexible, not open to discussion or negotiation. Yet he is leading Eve to believe that she will be able to understand - and, by implication, to decide for herself - what is good and what is evil.

2A-5B - Divinity vs Humanity

Second, Satan is blurring the distinction between divinity and humanity, between the Creator and one of his creatures. These ontological orders or categories are fixed for all eternity. Yet he is leading Eve to believe that she can, by deciding for herself what is good and what is evil, leave the human category and join God in the divine category - an impossibility.

2A-5C - Male vs. Female

Third, Satan is blurring the distinction between male and female, which includes different roles for men and women. God designated Adam to be the steward of the earth, to be head of the human race, and to be the head, protector, and provider for his family. God designated Eve to be her husband’s helpmate, caring for him and bearing and nurturing his children.²⁰ Yet, by engaging in a conversation with Eve, Satan is ignoring and encouraging Eve to ignore the fact that Adam is the head of his family and the head of the human race to come. If Satan has something to say to Mankind, he should be talking to Adam, not Eve, whom he has tricked into stepping outside of the protective, spiritual and physical covering which God provided for her in her husband.

2B - SPECTRUMS

Spectrums exhibit gradations between two extremes that are either (1) objective or (2) subjective.

2B-1 - Objective Spectrums

¹⁸ KJV Genesis 3:4-5.

¹⁹ Genesis 3:5.

²⁰ See Proverbs 31 to see the role that God intended wives to fill.

Objective spectrums can usually be measured. For example, consider the amount of gas in an automobile. The fuel gauge on its dashboard indicates that the amount of gas in its tank falls somewhere between E (empty) and F (full). The fuel gauge usually gives a rough approximation, because the driver seldom needs to know the precise amount of gas in the tank, just whether or not he should start looking for a gas station. In addition, some automobile manufactures arrange the fuel gauge to indicate empty when there is still a gallon of gas in the tank to increase the likelihood that the driver will not run out of gas before he reaches a gasoline station. On the other hand, consider a person's body-temperature. Medical thermometers usually indicate temperatures in the range of 96-106 degrees Fahrenheit. The reason is that the normal temperature for healthy adults is 98.6 degrees, and what seems like a minor variation from the norm actually indicates a medical emergency. If a person's temperature is below 96 degrees, the person is experiencing *hypothermia* and requires immediate measures to low his or her body-temperature. If a person's temperature is 103 or more degrees, the person is experiencing *hyperthermia* and requires immediate measure to lower his or her body-temperature. Objective spectrums are simple to understand and use.

2B-2 - Subjective Spectrums

Subjective spectrums are not so simple to understand and use. Consider the reviews in the Arts Section of your newspaper. A new comedy on Broadway can be rated somewhere between hilarious and humorless, but deciding where it belongs on that spectrum is highly subjective - e.g. some people like sophisticated wit; others like slap-stick. Other examples of subjective spectrums include (a) ability vs. disability, (b) beauty vs. ugliness, (c) courage vs. cowardice, (d) humility vs. pride, (e) intelligence vs. stupidity, and (f) knowledge vs. ignorance.

Also, some subjective spectrums can give the illusion of objectivity, but in fact consists of an agglomeration of many, different, subjective judgments. Consider the IQ ²¹ Test. Because so many organizations want some indication of how smart a prospective employee is, they require that applicants for a position take an IQ Test, and the applicants are evaluated by it and undoubtedly some other factors, like education and experience, and then hired or not hired on the basis of them.

The test supposedly measures how intelligent a person is - somewhere between moron (50±) and genius (150±). Moreover, it does so with great specificity, citing a particular number and instructing you to evaluate the number in accordance with several classes (ranges). For example, the 5th Edition of the Stanford-Binet Test places people in the following classes: (40-54) Moderately impaired or delayed, (55-69) Mildly impaired or delayed, (70-79) Borderline impaired or delayed, (80-89) Low average, (90-109) Average, (110-119) High average, (120-129) Superior, (130-144) Gifted or very advanced, and (144+) Very gifted or highly advanced.

²¹ IQ stands for Intelligence Quotient.

Despite the specificity of each person's score, the user of IQ Tests needs to keep the following in mind. Creating the test requires countless subjective judgments, such as the following:

- What type of questions should be asked: audible, geometrical, numerical, symbolic, verbal, visual, etc.?
- What specific topics should the questions cover: anthropology, architecture, art, astronomy, biology, chemistry, economics, geography, history, medicine, meteorology, paleontology, philosophy, physics, psychology, etc.?
- How should each specific question be phrased?
- What percentage of the questions from each of the foregoing categories should be used - e.g. how many verbal questions versus how many numerical or mathematical questions?
- How many point scores should be assigned to each classification?
- How does the test take into account an extreme imbalance in the results, such as a zero percent score in the verbal questions and a 100 percent score in the mathematical questions?

Also, we are left with some over-arching questions: How accurate are these classifications? Might a disappointing score be the result of anxiety or illness, not incompetence?

SECTION 3 - CONFUSION

Most people used to recognize that the ability to distinguish among things is a fundamental and critical component of (a) exercising plain common sense in the course of one's daily life, but also (b) making the sophisticated judgments that are required to ensure that one remains reasonable, judicious, and productive in the course of one's entire life. If someone graduates from high school unable to tell the difference between the alternatives in Section 2 above, he or she will be severely injured and possibly destroyed by his or her inevitable collisions with reality.

Nonetheless a segment of our society is struggling to persuade *everyone* that, contrary to the obvious facts, the difference between boys and girls and between men and women can be ignored. Extremists in this segment insist that (a) a person (hereafter "it") has the right to choose any point on the gender scale between the two extremes of male and female, which is paramount to saying that "it" can choose an alternate reality, and (b) society has the right and duty to force others to accept "its" choice or face the consequences, such as arrest, jail-time, fines, perhaps loss of livelihood, perhaps even incarceration in an asylum. Alas, this segment is succeeding in its crusade.

Take the abortion issue as another example. A segment of our society is trying to persuade everyone that the central issue in abortion is the right of a woman to choose whether or not to birth her child. The real issue here, however, should be whether or not anyone has the right to kill her baby, including her. The woman got pregnant because, in most cases, *she chose* to climb into bed with a man. She made her choice, and a baby in

her womb is the result. Now the reality is that, in a successful abortion, the child (a person) dies every time. This child possesses a unique, never to be repeated, DNA and, if allowed to live, will be born a boy or a girl, experience all the joys and sorrows of life, probably procreate and raise children, possibly contribute something important to the world, and finally die at God's appointed time. Sometimes the reality is that two people (the child and his or her mother) die. Clearly abortion kills people, depriving them of their lives. There is no escape from this reality - none.

Our society increasingly exhibits intolerance for anyone who makes such distinctions - even in fundamental, binary categories that allow no gradation between them, such as (a) divinity vs. humanity, (b) life vs. death, (c) male vs. female, and (d) truth vs. falsehood. This movement to require everyone to participate in another's choice of an alternate reality - let alone to embody this requirement in our corpus of laws - represents the descent of our entire society into insanity. The fact that, in 1973, nine, highly educated adults on the U.S. Supreme Court discovered the hitherto overlooked *penumbra* of a mother's right to murder the child in her womb in the U.S. Constitution puts an exclamation point to this observation. That our society accepted that stupid and evil decision as the law of the land and has since accepted the murder of roughly 72 million babies indicates how corrupt we have become. Just what do we think God's response to this "slaughter of the innocents" will be?

In closing, I urge you to reflect on this question: "Who is the author of confusion?" It is not God, because Paul wrote, "...God is not a God of confusion but of peace."²² Moreover, the apostle John starts his Gospel with the sentence, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"²³ John is talking about Jesus of Nazareth, God-the-Son, Israel's Promised Messiah. He is using a word in Greek, *logos*, that is rich with meaning. *Logos* refers, not just to an item - i.e. a "word" - in our vocabulary, but to the sum total of God's clarity, design, goodness, harmony, logic, order, perfection, and rationality. Moreover, John is indicating here that the subject of his Gospel, Jesus, is the personification of *logos*.²⁴ His first verse is echoing the first verse of the Creation Chronicle,²⁵ "In the beginning God created..." which is followed by a description of how God-the-Son and God-the Holy Spirit (a) first brought Universe into existence, (b) then formed and energized Universe, and (c) finally are now managing Universe according to God-the-Father's design and script, which are contained in the Decrees of God that God-the-Son took from God-the-Father's hand in the Throne Room of God.²⁶ Now, back to my question. If God is the personification of clarity, goodness, and order, who is the personification of confusion, evil, and disorder? Hint: he is identified in the Bible with great clarity.

²² ESV 1 Corinthians 14:33.

²³ KJ21 John 1:1.

²⁴ In fact, Jesus is the living definition of *logos*. If you want to know what *logos* means, look at Jesus.

²⁵ See Genesis 1:1 - 2:3.

²⁶ See Revelation 5:1-10.