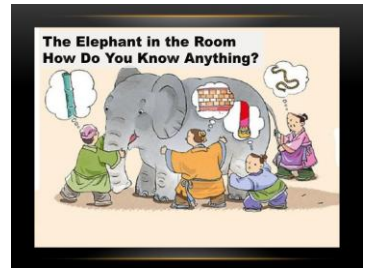




Thru God's Eye: Life in the REAL World

The Elephant in the Room: How Do You Know Anything?

Crossroads, September 18, 2011 - Mark Bickel



Psalm 96:4-5

*For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.*

I Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time

The Blind Men and the Elephant

*Poem by John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887)
Graphic by WordInfo (see endnote)
Based on a popular fable from India*

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind

The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, "Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"

The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

Moral:

So oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!

1) “Is there Truth?” or “Do all paths lead to God?”

A. Example: Moral of “The Blind Men and The Elephant”

B. Bible

- a. There is a God ... Genesis 1:1
- b. God speaks to us... He speaks in the Bible ... II Timothy 3:26
- c. Only One God ... Only Way to God is Jesus ... I Timothy 2:5-6 ... John 14:6 ... Psalm 96:4-5
- d. God calls us to Proclaim Him ... He will Judge All ... **Psalm 96:1-3, 6-13**

2) “What Parts of Life Does God Impact ?” or “Can I Separate Church and State, God and Science...?”

A. Example: Sociology Claim

B. Example: Three Pots

C. Bible

- a. Potter and Clay ... Isaiah 45:9-12 ... Isaiah 64:8-9 ... Romans 9:19-25
- b. God created ... for a purpose ... and still interacts today ... Genesis 2 (selected)
- c. The Above Claim Affect EVERYTHING!

3) “How Can I Know Anything at All?” or “How Can I Know God?”

A. Basis for Knowing

- a. Science
- b. Rational Thinking
- c. Society / Culture
- d. Autonomous Self
- e. God

B. Bible

- a. God Said it ... ~~I Believe it~~ ... That Settles It
- b. God is Eternal ... Is Truth ... Revelation 1:8 ... John 14:6 ... Romans 9:19-20
- c. God is Greater ...
- d. Evidence of God vs. Proof of God
- e. God is definition of Truth
- f. When I die it is not God who will stand before me for questioning on why He did not show himself more clearly, it is I who will stand before him, on why I did not believe what He did say and show of Himself! ... **II Corinthians 5:10**

Summary / Application:

- A. God of Bible can never be one of multiple ways to God
- B. Science, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Art ... all have to do with God
- C. Bible does not ‘prove’ God, it assumes and claims God ... I must do the same as I talk with people.

Recommended Reading

“Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept” by James Sire

“The Defense of the Faith” by Cornelius Val Til

NEXT WEEK: Who is God? And Why Does It Matter?



September / October Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
18 6:30 Crossroads The Elephant in the Room: How do we Know Anything at All?	19 6:00 Sports	20	21	22 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" week 1	23	24 6:00 Cowtown Rodeo
25 6:30 Crossroads Who is God? Why does it Matter? (<i>hang-out</i>)	26 6:00 Sports	27	28	29 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" week 2	30 7:00 Game Night	October 1
2 6:30 Crossroads Who are We? Why are You Here?	3 6:00 Sports	4	5	6 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" week 3	7-9 BFC Young Adult Mission Training Weekend At Pinebrook	
9 6:30 Crossroads What Went Wrong? The Problem of Evil and Good (<i>meal</i>)	10 6:00 Sports	11	12	13 8:00 Bible Study Open Forum	14	

Upcoming Events

Saturday September 24 at 6:00 pm

Go with International Students to Cowtown Rodeo

Friday September 30 at 7:00 pm

Game Night at Mark Bickel's place

Weekend October 7-9

BFC Young Adults Missions Training "Retreat Within a Retreat" at Pinebrook - ** Required for summer BFC Young Adult Missions trip to Mexico **

Weekend October 22-23

Sat. 9:30 – 3:30 / Sun. 6:30pm

Fresh Encounters Weekend – Saturday Prayer Seminar, Sunday Night Worship-based Prayer

Friday November 4 at 4:00 pm

Go with International Students Bowling

Stay in Touch!

Web: GraceBFC.org/Crossroads
 Facebook: Crossroads Young Adult Community
 Email: mbickel@gracebfc.org

Mark Your Calendars

Week of Nov. 13 – 20

Grace BFC Missions Conference

Week of Nov. 20

International Student Thanksgiving

February 10-12, 2012

Crossroads Winter Retreat

Other Events of Interest

Sign Language: Thursday 7-8 pm, see Jesse

Grace BFC Sun. Sermon Series: Faith in Formation – Spiritual Development in the Life of Joseph

Grace BFC Sun. Bible Study Hour: James: Putting Feet on your Faith; Life of Faith: Trusting God in Daily Life; Raising Cain: Parenting in 2011

Grace BFC Wed. Family Night: Discipleship Explored; Prayer: What Difference Does it Make?; GriefShare; DivorceCare