



1 WEEK 2: THE DIVIDE

This week we will focus on the divided view of knowledge which in its various forms enforces a dualistic understanding of the world. This almost universally held position sees the spiritual, emotional and faith life in an imaginary upper room while all that can be observed in the physical world is in a real lower room. In a sense the lower room relates only to real life from a naturalistic view point while the upper room is a dumping ground for everything else man experiences and claims to need that does not fit into the lower room. We will explore the history of this understanding, its implications for today and the Bible's response, exposing the logical inconsistency of those who reject God and the unified field of knowledge as presented in the truth of scripture and reality.

1.1 MODULES

1. Review
2. The Divide
3. An Unsustainable Position
4. Total Truth
5. Summary

1.2 KEY SCRIPTURE

Scriptures demonstrating the immediate nature of the unseen and supernatural alongside the visible and natural.

1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.

1 Timothy 5:21 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

Luke 15:7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

These scriptures and many other support the unified view rather than the divided view of reality.

KEY TERMS

1.2.1 Upper Story

Term used to denote that which, in modern thinking, deals with significance or meaning, but which is not open to contact with verification by the world of facts which constitute the "lower story." – *Francis Schaeffer*.



1.2.2 A closed system

A closed system is the way nature and natural laws are referred to by those who follow the presupposition of naturalism. The idea is that the laws of nature cannot be acted upon by an outside agent. The bible teaches an open system where God and other forces from the unseen / supernatural realm can interact with the natural realm sometimes resulting in what we call miracles.

1.3 KEY CONCEPTS

1.3.1 The Upper Storey vs the Lower Storey

Upper Story

Truth, Meaning, and Values grasped for irrationally.
Faith = No rationality; i.e., no contact with the cosmos (science) or history.
Optimism must be non-rational.
Upper story truth is not verifiable fact.
What ought to be (not what is).
Sacred and Private.

Lower Story

Logical Conclusions of the Atheistic Worldview = No Truth, No Meaning, No Values.
All rationality including scientific evidence and history.
All rationality = pessimism.
Lower story facts are verifiable
What is (not what ought to be).
Secular and Public.

1.3.2 A Borrowed Worldview

Naturalism if consistent only has a lower story, it has no purpose, meaning or future leading only to despair. In order to deal with this stark predicament, it needs to rely on the biblical worldview to lend meaning to life in an invented upper story to make everyone feel better about the pessimistic logical conclusion of their philosophy. The naturalistic worldview is an impossible position because its own presupposition is that there is no rationality or meaning, which by definition refutes its own position and all views that attempt to say anything about anything. All worldviews, even those that deny worldview or attainable knowledge like postmodernism, do so with the currency of propositional and objective truth only produced from the biblical worldview, or the world as it really is.

1.3.3 The Supernatural Universe

The fundamental nature of the universe is personal because it was designed and is maintained by God who is a person not a force. It is natural because God has created nature with its corresponding laws and it is supernatural because the unseen realm is part of the created sphere we call the universe or cosmos. God is the only Eternal one, not part of the creation, however he transcends and so interacts with his creation within space-time.

1.3.4 Unified Truth

We reject the idea that all rational knowledge is restricted to scientific knowledge (lower story confinement). God is not just a force or idea, but as a Person who speaks and acts. God created everything, in particular He created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26). The universal big questions of Philosophy are the logical outcome of God's design.

This view tears down the firm walls erected by man separating the lower story from the upper story. This view known as a unified field of knowledge and truth is the only satisfying, consistent and logical model of reality as it really is rather than how men choose to perceive it.