



Freedom in Christ

Pastor Michael Cranford

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Schedule

Sept 10

Lecture I

Sept 17

Sept 24

Oct 1

Oct 8

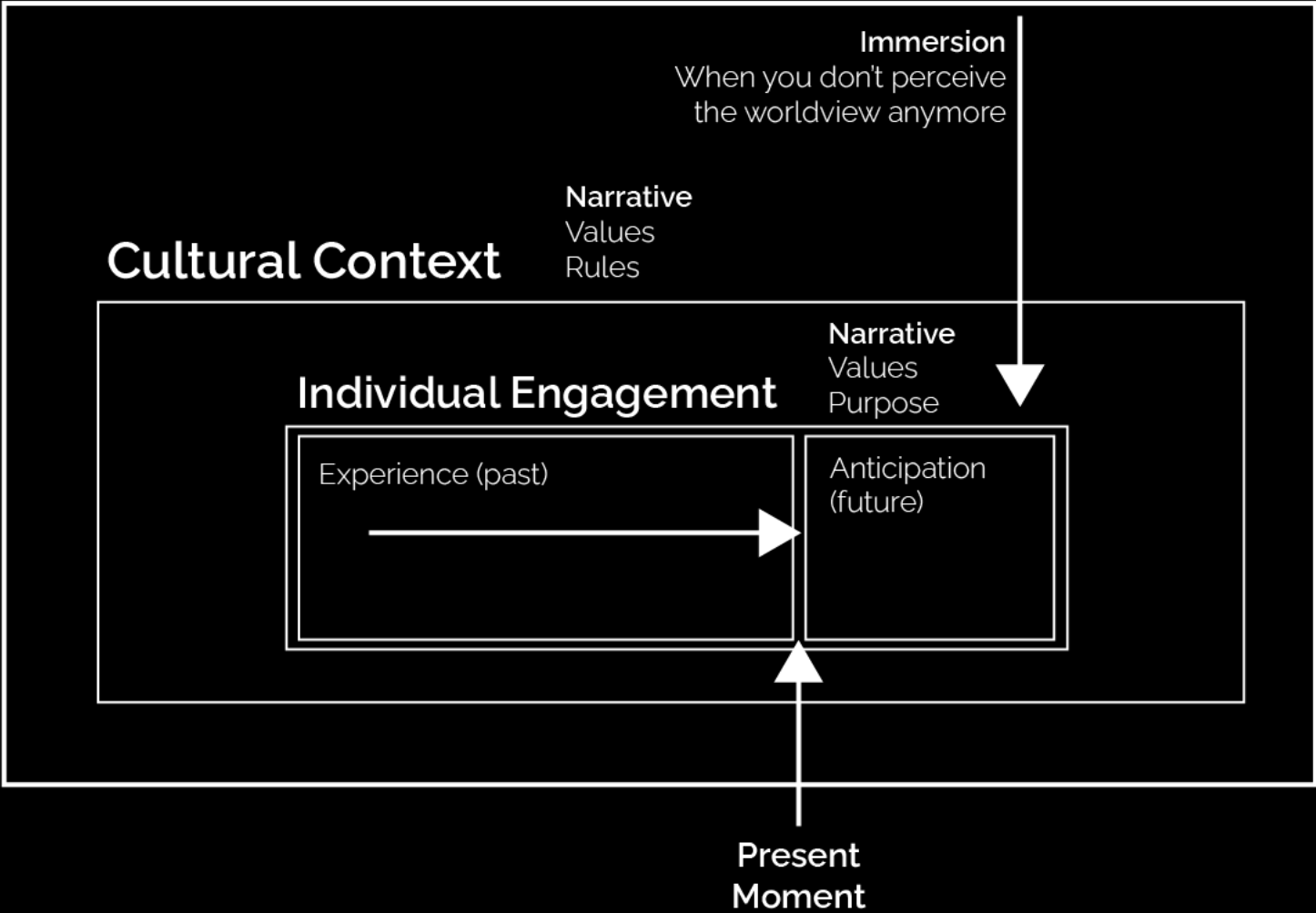


Freedom in Christ: Christian Worldview

Worldview

Narrative
Presuppositions
Principles

Philosophy (either consciously or unconsciously adopted)



Understanding Worldview...

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:2)

Critical Point:

There are two explanations for your life: you were created or you were an accident. Which narrative you accept will change everything for you.



You are not an accident!

1. Humans were created by God in His image, given breath and purpose, but formed materially from dust to impart a sense of humility and dependency.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Gen 1:26-27)

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Gen 2:7)



You are not an accident!

a) The creation of genders is fundamental to humanity, which indicates an equality of significance and value. The creation of genders seems inherent in (contained within) the image of God. Elevation of one gender over another is therefore antithetical to God's intent. Changing our gender is a contradiction to the image of God; it is essentially the attempt to redefine ourselves in our own image.

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

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b) The biblical worldview indicates that Adam (and therefore Eve) were real people who lived at a historic moment, not symbols. Their reality explains Jesus' reality as well as your reality.

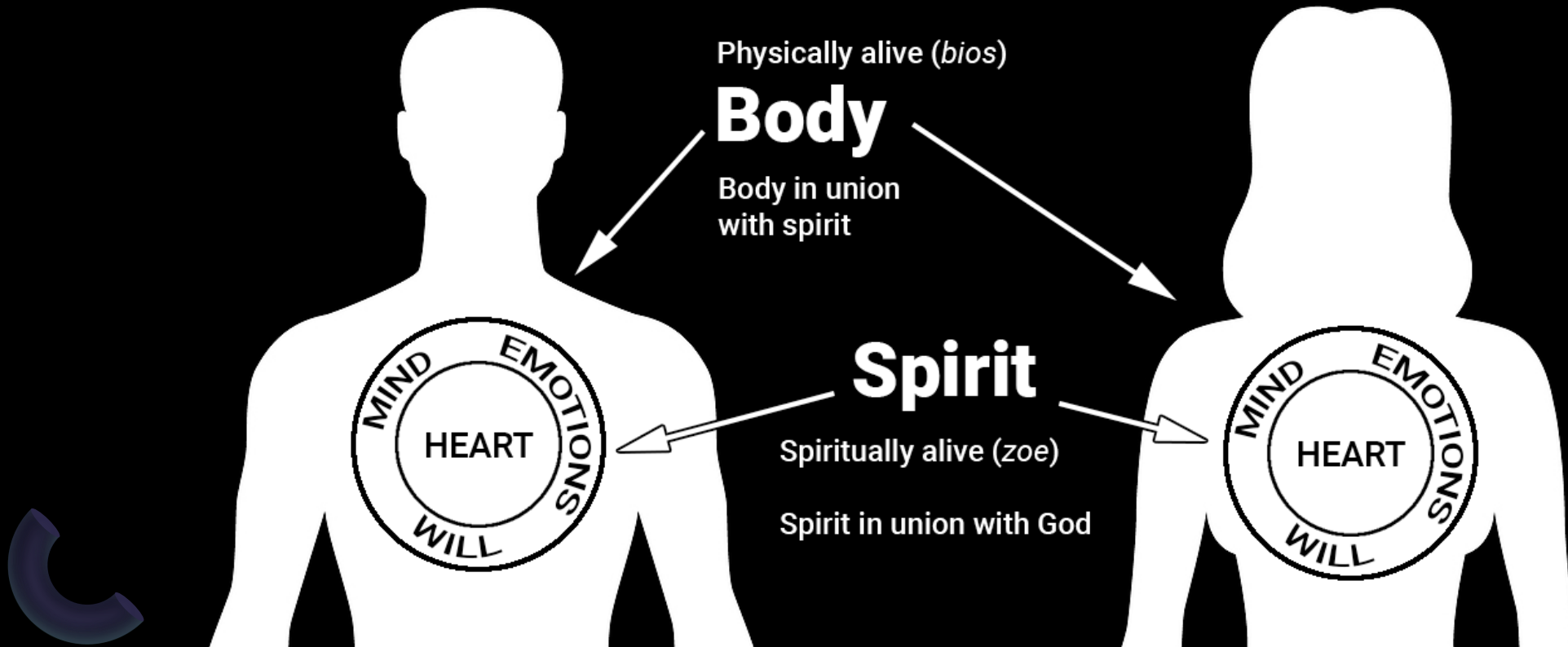
Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. (Rom 5:14)

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Cor 15:22)

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. (1 Cor 15:45)

You are not an accident!

2. Prior to the fall, human beings possessed life (Gen 2:7), significance (Gen 1:28), security (Gen 1:29), and belonging (Gen 2:18).



You are not an accident!

3. The fall occurred when Adam and Eve chose autonomy over dependence (Gen 3:5-7). The “knowledge” they took against God’s command was the ability to see and understand good and evil from a position external to God. Their own determination of good and evil caused them to view themselves differently. (Gen 3:7)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

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3. The fall occurred when Adam and Eve chose autonomy over dependence (Gen 3:5-7). The “knowledge” they took against God’s command was the ability to see and understand good and evil from a position external to God. Their own determination of good and evil caused them to view themselves differently. (Gen 3:7)

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (Gen 3:1-5)



You are not an accident!

“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen 3:5)

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. (2 Thess 2:7)



You are not an accident!

4. As a result of the fall, what we lost was the life God provided, the security and provision he gave us, the significance he planned for us. (Gen 3:16-24)

¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

You are not an accident!

4. As a result of the fall, what we lost was the life God provided, the security and provision he gave us, the significance he planned for us. (Gen 3:16-24)

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen 3:16-24)



You are not an accident!

4. As a result of the fall, what we lost was the life God provided, the security and provision he gave us, the significance he planned for us. (Gen 3:16-24)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. (Eph 2:1-2)

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— (Rom 5:12)



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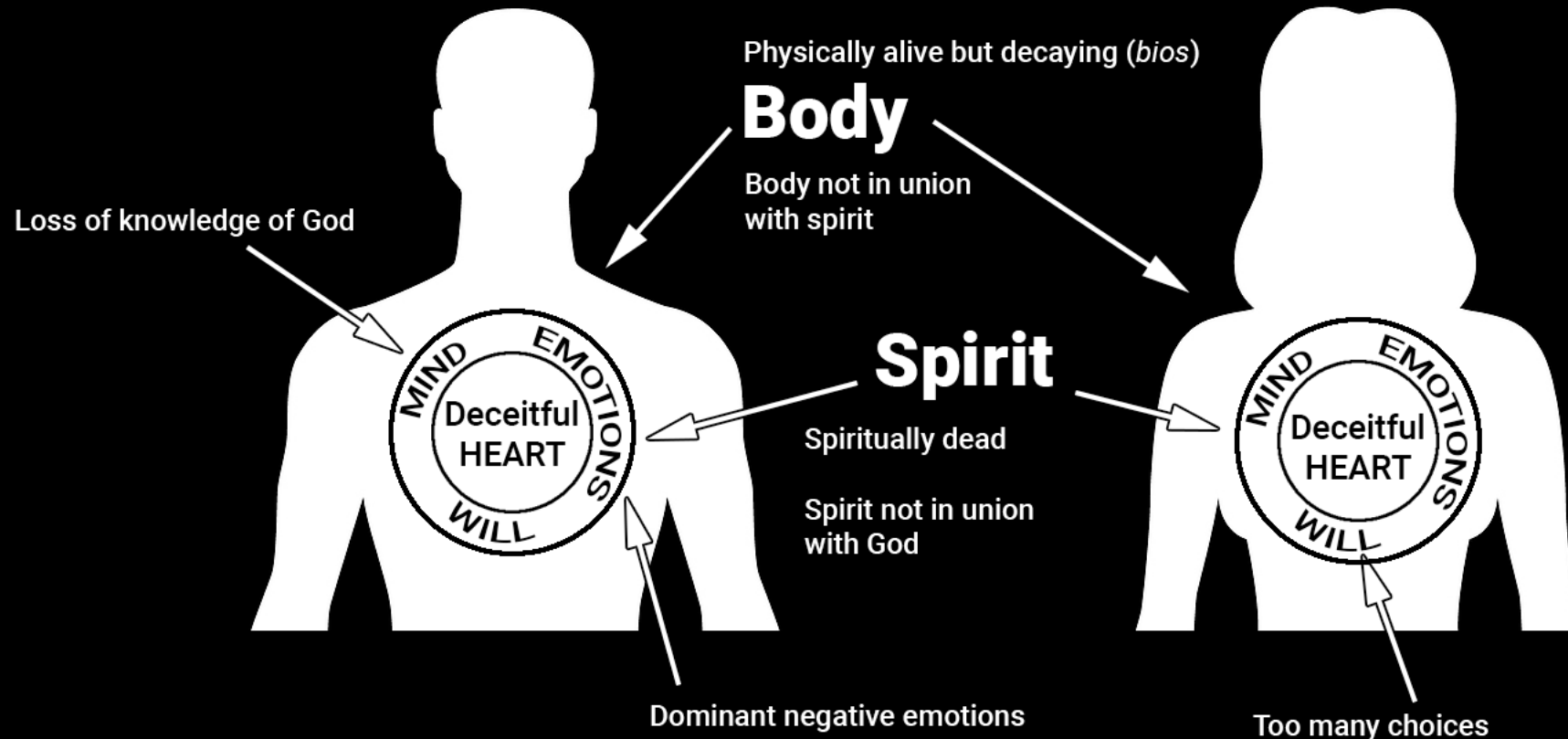
5. As a result of the fall, our losses became needs. We became weak, rejected, and consumed by shame. We now have a need to belong, a need for self-worth, and a need for strength and control.

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. (Rom 8:20-21)



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You are not an accident!

- a) Acceptance gone. We experience rejection, therefore we have a need to belong.
- b) Innocence gone. We experience guilt and shame, therefore we have a need for self-worth.
- c) Dominion gone. We are weak and helpless, therefore we have a need for strength, power, and control.



What a spirit separated from God looks like:

Lost knowledge of God (Rom 1:21; I Cor 2:14)

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Rom 1:21)

Dominant negative emotions (Gen 4:5-7; Eph 4:26-27; Phil 4:6-7; Ps 27:1)

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” (Gen 4:6-7)

Too many choices (Prov 14:12)

There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death. (Prov 14:12)