

Every Mind is a Universe

In every mind is a world of thought. Each mind defines its own reality by creating an order and set of priorities. Just as God set the order of the universe, you set the order in your universe. The world for an infant does not exist much beyond his or her own feelings. For example an infant feeling discomfort will cry and not consider that it is four in the morning and everyone is sleeping. In the beginning the infant is the Supreme Being in his or her own universe. As the infant's own universe grows and expands it can take in other important considerations. The Bible identifies God as the Supreme Being in his creation:

For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.¹

Who is the Supreme Being in your universe? In your mind what is most important? The order you set in your universe can make you the Supreme Being or you can choose some other "god" or you can choose the LORD God. Which of these options do you think The Bible recommends?

"Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.²

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.³

For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"),

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.⁴

The universe of the individual's mind can also have as its supreme being something created by man. The ancient world created idols to symbolize natural forces it did not understand. The modern world idolizes celebrities and human philosophies among other things. To acknowledge God as the LORD is to understand the futility of this and replace that idolatry with worship of the true God.

"Of what value is an idol, since a man has carved it? Or an image that teaches lies? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak.

Woe to him who says to wood, 'Come to life!' Or to lifeless stone, 'Wake up!' Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it.

But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."⁵

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.⁶

Who is the Supreme Being in your universe? Just as God chose the order of the universe he created you can make choices in the order of your universe. What is most important to you? What do you have your mind set on? Just as the mind of the infant needs to grow our minds need to grow beyond our understanding of the world of the flesh to take in the larger spiritual reality. The apostle Paul stresses the importance of this writing to the believers in Rome.

¹ Psalms 95:3-5

² Exodus 23:13

³ Deuteronomy 10:17-18

⁴ 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

⁵ Habakkuk 2:18-20

⁶ Colossians 2:8-10

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able {to do so}

and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh- for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.⁷

Going back to our infant child analogy, the newborn infant has no understanding of the physical world he or she was recently born into. Quickly though, the infants mind grows and expands to master basic functions of the physical world like walking and talking. In like manner the adult mind needs to grow beyond an understanding of the flesh and begin to master basic functions of the spirit. If your mind never grows beyond the world of the flesh you will not even understand that there is a conflict between the flesh and the spirit and as a result you will remain in opposition to God.

So if you become aware of some instruction from God that helps to reveal his mind and the order of his universe and you do not follow that instruction, who is God in your universe? If you decide not to follow Gods instruction are you then the Supreme Being in your universe? For example Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.⁸

If you are not indeed seeking his kingdom first you are not following his instruction. You are either placing yourself or something else ahead of God. He is then not the Supreme Being in your universe. The way most people today order their universe is to first take care of various pressing physical concerns and then if time permits pay some attention to God. For many people that time never comes. There are many immediate concerns that must be dealt with; we all have responsibilities, plans and ambitions. But Christ reasoning with wisdom greater than the wisdom we get from this world says no to this order. Christ says first seek his kingdom and everything else will follow. The wisdom of this age is absolutely opposed to his order of priorities. Seeking his kingdom and his righteousness first is the same thing as acknowledging God as the Supreme Being in your universe. It's the same thing as saying, "Jesus is Lord". It's the same thing as acknowledging God as the LORD. There is a God. God is not you. Who is the Supreme Being in your universe?

To wrap this up, look at this passage from the apostle Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. He continues his theme of contrasting the wisdom of the world with the greater spiritual wisdom that comes from Christ.

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

⁷ Romans 8:5-14 (New American Standard)

⁸ Matthew 6:31-33

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—

but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.⁹

Every mind is a universe. In every mind is a world of thought. Is the order in your universe according to the wisdom of this world or is it according to the wisdom that comes from the mind of God?

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⁹ 1 Corinthians 2:1-16