

CLASS INTRODUCTION

There is – and has always been -- a constant battle for the soul of Man. In this world, that battle is waged in one of two ways; either by the naked use of force, or by the manipulation of the individual and collective minds of Men.

We are not born with innate knowledge. That is an idea inherited from the Greeks, and it is not born out by experience and observation. Rather, we are born as blank slates and learn our worldviews from our families and societies. In this sense, everything about our worldview is inherited from our parents, family and friends; from our church, social groups and community; and from our schools, radio, television and – now – social media.

Few of us will ever give any serious thought about what we learn. Fewer still will question what we learn. This is especially true for what we are taught in school. The reason is simple: most of us are taught to respect and obey elders and people in positions of authority. Therefore, we naturally accept what we are told by our parents and close family members; by our pastors and priests; by teachers and academics; by political leaders; and by reporters. We are also heavily influenced by celebrities and people we consider to be role models and/or heroes. So, we tend to accept what we learn from those we trust and admire without thought or question.

But what happens if the things we learn from the authority figures in our lives are wrong? What if these authority figures were taught

wrong and so, with sincere belief that they are teaching us correctly, they teach us to embrace errors – errors handed down to them by their authority figures who had been taught errors, themselves? In such a case, we can easily find ourselves in a position where we believe we are sincerely standing up for the truth when we are defending errors. Now, imagine this has happened to you, and it happened innocently. How difficult do you suppose it would be to convince you that you had been taught incorrectly?

Now, what happens if the people who taught us these errors did so out of incompetence or, worse, deliberately? The people we trust are just that: people! As such, they are just as prone to making mistakes as we are. They inherit their worldview from those who came before them just like we have. They probably don't question them any more than we do. But they can also have their own agendas, their own ambitions. In this case, when authority is intentionally abused to push a falsehood, then that falsehood will be defended by ignorant people who sincerely believe they are doing the right thing. How do you convince these people that they were deceived by the ones they trusted and admired most?

Well, I have questioned what I have been taught my whole life. I seem to have been made to question, even the things I am convinced I know that I know. As a result, I have learned that there are many ways to interpret the same data, and how we interpret that data largely depends upon the worldview we have inherited. So, if you want to understand the world better, start by sincerely questioning the worldview you inherited, as well as the people

from whom you inherited it. Just be warned: if you question with a sincere desire to know the truth, you may not like what you discover. For example:

You may discover you have been lied to about a great many things.