

Presuppositions

What are presuppositions? If you are reading the electronic copy of this document on your computer, just a few clicks of the mouse will open a dictionary. Smart Lookup (Powered by Oxford Dictionaries) defines presuppositions this way:

Presupposition – a thing tacitly assumed beforehand at the beginning of a line of argument or course of action

For example:

- My wife is a teacher.
 - Presupposition – I have a wife.

Another example that is a little more in depth, and one that could have multiple possibilities:

- On my way into work this morning, I was stopped by every traffic light in town.
 - Possible Presupposition – I have a car
 - Possible Presupposition – I have a bike
 - Possible Presupposition – I was walking
 - Possible Presupposition – I have a job

Using the last example, most of us would probably 'presuppose' that I have a car and was driving to work. The presupposition was that I have a car. And based on that presupposition, most would then believe that I was driving to work.

You see, a presupposition is basically just a starting point. And it is from that starting point that we begin to interpret the information that we were given.

Using the same example, if Bob uses the presupposition, "I have a car", but John makes a presupposition that "I have a bike", Bob and John may interpret the remaining part of that statement differently.

Bob would believe that my car was stuck in traffic behind other cars at a stop light, while John may believe that I was using the bike lane.

Now, these examples are in the simplest form. So how do we apply presuppositions on a grander scale?

In our society, and even in our world, there are basically only two (2) presuppositions; 2 starting points for how we interpret everything. Sometimes we call these World Views. They are the glasses through which we see the world around us, and they are the basis by which we interpret the information that we are given.

These two world views are:

1. God's Word is True
2. Man's word is True

To understand each of these starting points, we must go back to the beginning (you see what I did there?? LOL!)

Man's word – tells us that in the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing, through the process of a big bang, everything came into existence. And, over billions and billions of years, through a process called evolution, we ended up with the world as we see it today.

God's Word – tells us in Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. The Bible goes on to tell us that in 6 literal days, 6 – 24 hour days, God created everything; oceans, land, grass, plants, trees, animals, fish, insects, birds, etc. And then, on the 6th day, God created man in His image. God created both male and female, and as God looked at His creation, He said it was very good.

NOTE: Everyone will have, or believe, one of these two world views, whether they are aware of it or not. They will either start with God's Word, or they will start with Man's word.

These two world views are contrary to one another, and therefore can NOT both be true. (For more on this statement, see our study topic entitled "The Law of Non-Contradiction")

One can NOT believe that God created the world AND that we are a product of evolution over billions and billions of years.

You see, the world around us is filled with evidence of our beginning. And as we study and investigate this evidence, our world view will dictate how that evidence is interpreted.

A common misunderstanding is that there is one set of evidence that supports creation, and a different set of evidence that supports evolution. However, that is not true! We all study the same evidence. And it is our world view, or our presupposition, that is different.

An archeologist or paleontologist whose presupposition is evolution over billions of years (man's word), and who is studying a fossil, will interpret that fossil to be the remains of an animal or dinosaur or plant that lived billions of years ago. And over a tremendous amount of time, that fossil was created.

On the other hand, an archeologist or paleontologist whose presupposition is creation (God's Word), and who is studying the exact same fossil, will interpret that same fossil to be the remains of an animal or dinosaur that lived only a few thousand years ago. And that it was because of a worldwide catastrophe, The Flood during Noah's Time, that the same exact fossil was created.

The same evidence was studied by both archeologists / paleontologists, but two, totally different conclusions were reached. All because of the presupposition or the world view of the observer.

This TRUTH applies to every area of our lives, from creation to “what happens when we die”. We see it play out in society through an individual’s perception of origin, marriage, gender, age of the earth, sickness, disease, destiny, etc.

So... What about you? What is your world view? Have you thought about that?

For more information and discussions on this topic, be sure to tune into our Podcast or check out our YouTube channel. You can also send your questions or comments through our website:

www.LeagueofLogic.com