

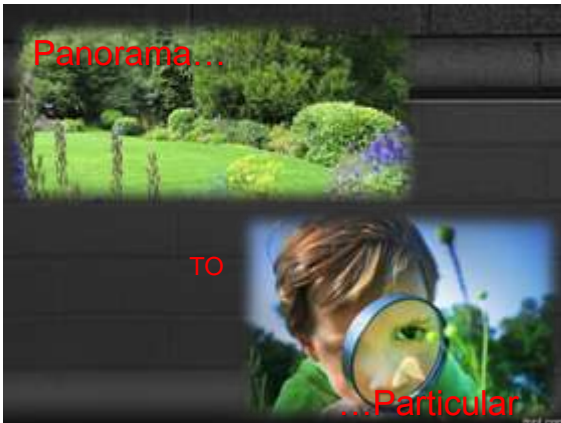
Coromandel Baptist Church

Conversations about Education

The Journey...

1. **Education** - What is it and why is it important?
2. **Education** - Where should it take us?
3. **Education** - Who can help us on the journey?

Panorama...



Some Introductory thoughts...

- A “reductionist” understanding...
- The myth of Educational neutrality...
- Assessment determines input and purpose...
- The confusion of authority...
- School ≠ Education; Education ≠ School

Reductionism

“Education is the key to the future: Educated people have higher wages and lower unemployment rates, and better-educated countries grow faster and innovate more than other countries.” (George Mason University)

“Our future growth relies on competitiveness and innovation, skills and productivity... and these in turn rely on the education of our people.” Julia Gillard

Reductionism...

Adelaide University

“Light under the Cross”



Reductionism...

Adelaide
University

**“Light
under the
Southern
Cross”**



Reductionism...

Adelaide
University

**“Seek
Light”**



Reductionism

- Australian Schools 1793 – 1872
- Secularisation 1879...
- “...the nation will become indifferent to God”



Can education be neutral?

Every education, every curriculum
every teacher has a viewpoint...

Those viewpoints either consider God
or they do not...

To teach children about life and the
world in which they live without
reference to God, makes a statement
about God...

Can education be neutral?

The message is either that there is no
God or that God is irrelevant...

The outcome is the same – an irrelevant
God is the same as no God at all...

If God exists, and His kingdom is reality,
then He must be relevant to His entire
creation...

Can education be neutral?

If God be indeed the Creator of
all things, all things must be
defined in relationship to Him, or
else we have a false definition.

Rousas J. Rushdoony

Can education be neutral?

Every piece of information has a narrative in which it is understood

1 Corinthians 1:18

Assessment of Education



National
Assessment
Plan,
Literacy
And
Numeracy

Assessment of Education



Programme
for
International
Student
Assessment

Organisation for
Economic
Cooperation and
Development

Confusion of Authority



Government



Family



Church

Biblical Warrant

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

WHO?

STARTS WITH?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

WHO?

HOW?

WHEN?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

WHO?
WHEN?
HOW?

School is not the same as Education
Education is not the same as School
Schools are **INTENTIONAL** places of education
Average 15,000 – 20,000 hours of deliberate and intentional change..

Family
Church
Community
Culture
Etc..

Two Main Points

1. All Education is driven by a narrative; a story of how we understand all of life
2. Education is holistic, not simply data and information; it is not solely an issue of the intellect.

The **BIG PICTURE** narrative...

In the beginning,
God created the
heavens and the
earth.

Genesis 1:1



By faith we
understand that
the universe was
created by the
word of God,
(Hebrews 11:3)



The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to Him. And so do all those who live in it. **Psalm 24:1**



He (Jesus) upholds the universe by the word of his power **(Hebrews 1:3)**



"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." **1 Chronicles 29:11**



"In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." **Job 12:10**



The Creation, Fall, Redemption, Fulfillment narrative

The whole Bible tells HIS story



The quality of education must be measured by its proximity to **truth**...



Thus...

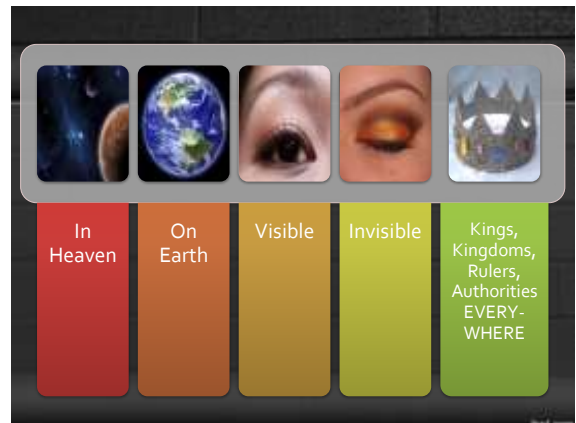
The quality of education must be measured by its proximity to **Christ**



Norman De Jong

16 For by Him **all** things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. Colossians 1:16

And He is before **all** things, and in Him **all** things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.** Colossians 1:17-18



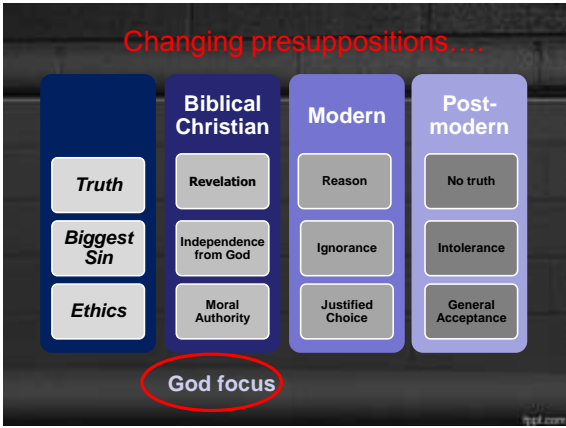
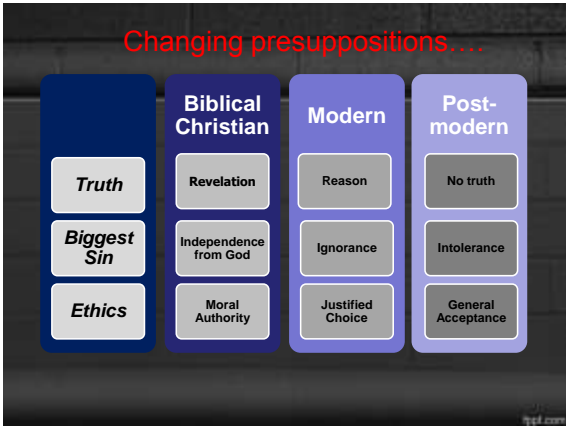
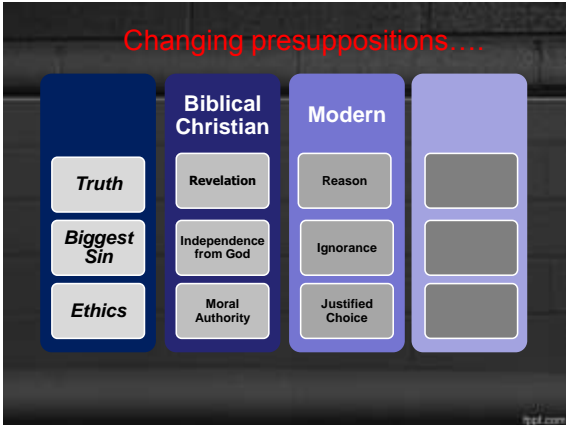
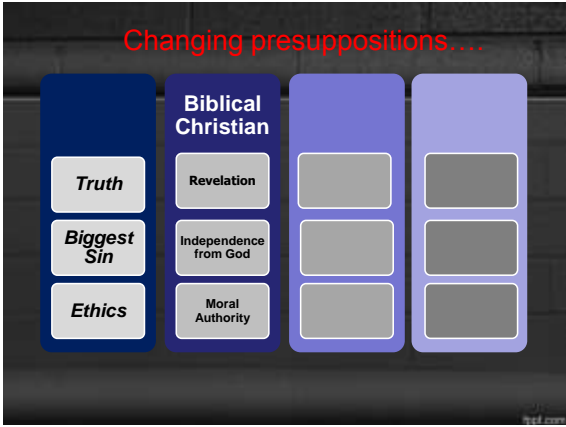
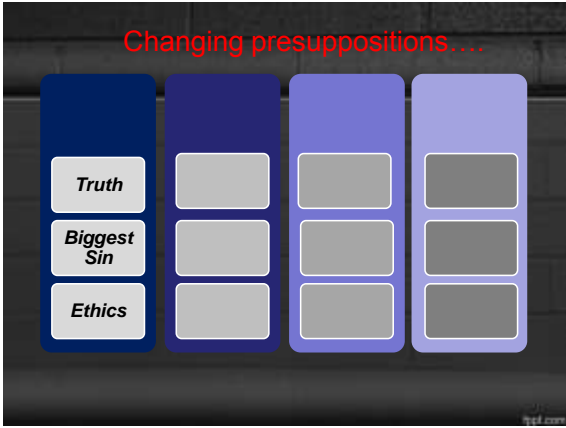
Which Narrative?

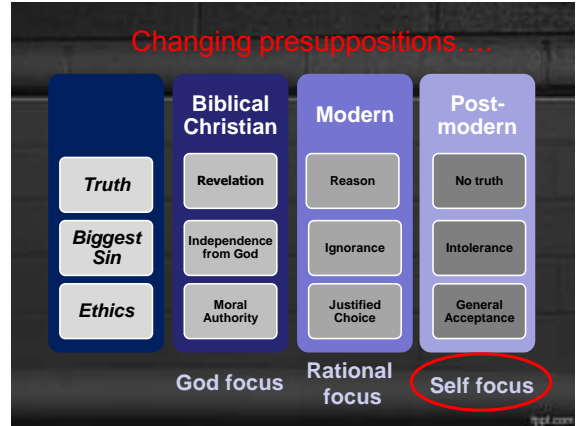
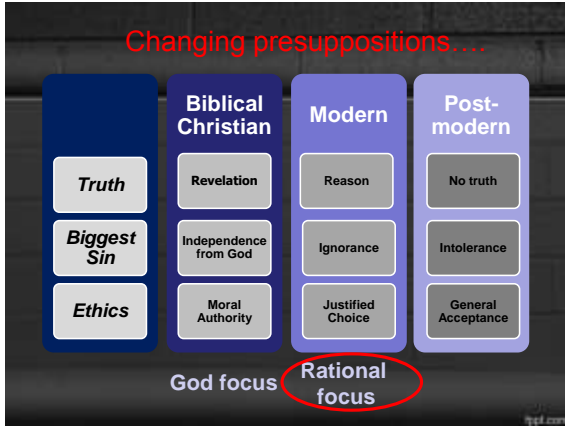
- Every education proposes, and is embedded in, a big story – a narrative.
- Who is the hero? What is our place in the story?
- Living in the story; living out of that story...

Our understanding becomes their understanding...



The alternative narratives?





Cultural Influence



- Independence
- Freedom
- Liberty
- Prosperity
- Individual rights

Cultural Influence



- Champions of Choice...
- Believe in yourself
- Winners
- You can do it!



Cultural Influence



- USA Edition?
- Pronouns changed from plural to singular!
- "WE" becomes "I"
- "OUR" becomes "MY"

Cultural Influence

The home of "free will" choice theology
The home of prosperity Gospel
The home of individual benefits

Cultural Influence

- The home of Hollywood
- Everyone can be a star...

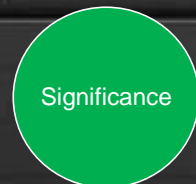


Cultural Influence

• But...



The Pragmatism Model



Success = Wealth, possessions

Cultural Influence



- Tall Poppy?
- Egalitarian?
- Tolerant?
- Compassionate?

Two Main Points

1. All Education is driven by a narrative; a story of how we understand all of life
2. Education is holistic, not simply data and information; it is not solely an issue of the intellect.

Education is HOLISTIC

Education aims to:

Instruct the MIND
Shape the HEART
Equip the HAND

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Education is HOLISTIC

Holistic Learning shapes our thinking – we are to have the “mind of Christ” 2 Corinthians 10:5

Our minds have to be constantly checked and refined against the Word of God... Our minds have to be captive to Christ

Education is HOLISTIC

Many educators focus simply on THINKING - The MIND

The Biblical view is that learning and formation takes place primarily in the heart

The Bible...

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart

Proverbs 21:2

The Bible....

Keep your **heart** with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

The Bible....

Trust in the Lord with all your **heart**,
and do not lean on your own
understanding. In all your ways
acknowledge him, and he will make
straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

The Bible....

And I will give you a new **heart**, and
a new spirit I will put within you.
And I will remove the **heart** of stone
from your flesh and give you a
heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

What do we sing?

Change my **heart** O God...



What do we sing?

Create in me a clean **heart**...



What do we sing?

My **heart** is filled with
thankfulness...



What do we sing?

- Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart..



What do we sing?

Every soul we long to reach
 Every heart we hope to teach
 Everywhere we share His peace
 Is only by His grace



Education is HOLISTIC

Every person is driven by LOVE...
 The object of that LOVE is warped by sin
 It is the desires of our heart that God changes...

Be careful....

“Just follow your heart”

Our hearts were never designed to be followed, but to be led. Our hearts were never designed to be gods in whom we believe; they were designed to believe in God.

Be careful....

“Just follow your heart??”

"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?" *Jeremiah 17:9*

Be careful....

“Just follow your heart??”

Our hearts have to be constantly checked and refined against the Word of God... Our hearts have to be captured by Jesus

Education is HOLISTIC

Knowledge and Understanding
cause us to engage in life

Knowledge and Understanding
CHANGE us..

Education is HOLISTIC

The goal is RESPONSIBLE and
RESPONSIVE disciples of Jesus
Christ..

