12 Axioms You Need to Know, Practice, and Protect: Concluding Remarks.

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What is…

Faith	Reason	Knowledge	Rationality	Truth:
• Faith is the reliance upon that which you have reason to believe is true or trustworthy. • Faith and reason compliment each other	• Reason is that which you have evidence to show is true and trustworthy. • Reason also may used to refer to a motive for a particular action.	• Knowledge is true belief plus that which confers justification, rationality, or warrant. • Knowledge precedes truth. • Knowledge does not mean one has to have absolute certainty to know something.	• Rationality refers to the capacity to form concepts, thoughts, deliberate, & think. • Rationality can also refer to the faculty of reason which knows some truths to be self-evident (e.g., law of non-contradiction; mathematics). • "Rational" belief is that idea which has justification or warrant.	• Truth is that which corresponds to reality, identifies things as they actually are, can never fail, diminish, change or be extinguished, must be logical, and is sourced in the God of the Bible who is the Author of all truth.

12 Axioms to Remember:

- 1. If you isolate the mind from loving God with your deep-seated affections, conscious thought life, and bodily powers, then you will have cultivated fertile ground for **pride** to grow.
- 2. If you isolate the mind from loving God with your deep-seated affections, conscious thought life, and bodily powers, then you will have cultivated fertile ground for **unnecessary dogmatism** to grow.
- 3. If you isolate the mind from loving God with your deep-seated affections, conscious thought-life, and bodily powers, then you have cultivated fertile ground for **unhealthy doubt and skepticism** to grow.

If we *agape* love [which is the commitment of the will to the true good of another] God from out of our capacities to think, our deep-seated affections, thought-life, and bodily powers, then we are likely to avoid…

- Anti-intellectualism
- Unhealthy Doubt and Skepticism
- Weariness and Oppression
- Unnecessary Dogmatism
- Dysfunctionalism

12 Axioms to Remember:

Consider this quote by G. K. Chesterton:

"The madman is not the man who has lost his reason. The madman is the man who has lost everything except his reason."

~ *Orthodoxy* (Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1959), 19.

Consider…

- "Anything inconsistent with reason wounds us." ~ Pierre Nicole.

12 Axioms to Remember:

- 4. If you isolate your deep-seated affections, conscious thought-life, and bodily powers from loving God with your mind, that is, your ability to reason, judge, and deliberate, then you have cultivated fertile ground for **anti-intellectualism** to grow.

- 5. Never study theology in isolation of actively participating in community. If you do isolate yourself, then you will become **dysfunctional** spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and intellectually.

12 Axioms to Remember:

- 6. If you isolate your theological studies from community, then you have cultivated fertile ground for **weariness and oppression** to set in. Your studies will eventually become a "duty" and not a "pleasure."

- 7. If you neglect your theological studies from worship, then you will have ignored the opportunity to grow in conformity to "true truth." MAKE YOUR STUDIES AN EXPRESSION OF WORSHIP.

- 8. Test every truth-claim by examining whether it is logical, exegetically accurate, and theologically coheres with the whole of Scripture. Dismiss any truth-claim that does not harmonize with these three tests.

Biblically Accurate

- Does your answer reflect accurate exegesis of Scripture.
- Does your answers harmonize with the whole of Scripture: Genesis to Revelation.

Theological Coherent

- Does your answer harmonize with with what you already doctrinally know to be true and trustworthy.
- Does your answer harmonize with historical orthodoxy (e.g., Apostles Creed).

Logically Sound

- Does your answer pass the following logical tests:
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- Test of Logical Consistency;
- Test of Empirical Adequacy;
- Test of experiential relevance
- Test of unaffirmability (test for falsehood; just because something can be stated, it does not necessarily mean that it is true).
- Test of undeniability (something can't be logically proven, but yet cannot be denied without affirmation and therefore establish themselves as truth).

12 Axioms to Remember:

- 9. You are the not the determiner, but the discoverer of doctrine; not the magistrate, but the minister of doctrine; not the regulator, but the recognizer of doctrine; not the judge, but the witness of doctrine; not the master, but the servant of doctrine.
- 10. Never ignore the correlative value of natural theology, church history, and consequences.
- 11. You are never immune to sin. Sin will take you places you never thought you would go. Stand firm against the devil, but immediately flee from sin.
- 12. The Christian life is "not merely content, but conviction; not merely conviction, but communication; not merely communication, but consistency." ~ Ravi Zacharias.