



The Power of Paradigms

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PARADIGMS EXPLORED

"**P**aradigm" is a word that not everyone may know. We are nevertheless all powerfully affected by our paradigms. There are paradigms in any kind of application. These guide our thinking and practice. Paradigms apply to humanity's approach to art, science, culture, religion and technology throughout history.

We become trapped in these understandings. Common understanding and practices are accepted as guiding principles or "fact" by teachers and leaders. Most of us are generally blind to question or to escape from the paradigms that are set in place for us. It takes imagination and often courage to dare to examine paradigms critically. We can look at an example at the acceptance of the understanding that the earth was thought to be the center of the universe. Until Copernicus and later Galileo made their discoveries of the "heliocentric" model, that it was the earth actually moved around the sun. Thinking outside of the paradigms is where discovery occurs, leading to breakthroughs in science, art, or religious thought. Galileo was punished by house arrest by the Roman Catholic church until his death as a teacher of heresy.

Paradigms: define our understanding of how things are or MUST be.

- Paradigms: limit our ability to function outside of that paradigm-or receive understanding outside of the paradigm. They are in a sense, glass walls or ceilings in the domain of a given paradigm.
- Religion is among the many domains where paradigms exist.
- Paradigm Breakers are considered radical, even blasphemous or heretical.
- Paradigms of science or cosmology have often been in conflict with religious teaching and dogma. Religious authorities were frequently intolerant of new ways of thinking. Whether about the earth and solar system as envisioned by Copernicus, Galileo or Newton whose teachings fell on the outside of orthodoxy. Old ways of thinking do not receive a new paradigm without resistance and tension.

I am deeply aware that the world is full of unresolved mysteries. These mysteries include surmising on theories of creation; the age of the earth; the history and nature of human civilizations, and where to place them in their epochs of time. The deep space discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope and the James West Deep Space telescope, launched in 2021. The latter has made discoveries of tens of billions of galactic worlds many are seen for the first time. It is

calculated to reveal primordial objects dating to the very time of creation. Certainly these kinds of discoveries will cause us to rethink the Biblical narrative that places the time of creation at somewhere around 4004 BC! Are we a new earth or an old earth in light of science. We are challenged to rethink the paradigms.

We go to experts for answers. What happens when experts can not agree? The debate between science and religion has had a long history of being dissonant or irreconcilable. Today as I write this a new question is coming into view. Its focus is on “Disclosure.” For decades the mystery of Unidentified Flying Object has caused a flurry of conjecture, ridicule and denial.

Will the long asked question soon be resolved? Do we actually have “space brothers” from other worlds with advanced evolution, who are soon to make their appearance upon the world stage? The initial information that is coming from the disclosure hearings appears to hold to a narrative that clearly contradicts a biblical view. It is definitely not the Genesis account of creation and the progenitors of the human race on earth. What will collision of paradigms hold in store for the world of religion, science and society? These are interesting times!

Christianity is under attack. There are forces who wish to cancel its relevance. We are seeing continuing strains upon the biblical narrative. How can God’s children walk in truth? Which accounts that challenge us today are pure and correct? When will ‘*man made*’ traditions be seen for what they are, soulish distractions and distortions from pure Spiritual realities?

As humanity live and have lived their lives throughout the centuries from creation to when Jesus the Messiah brought the message of salvation humanity people still live in a bubble, a kind of alternative reality. That reality is illusory. Individuals without the aid of the “New Birth” are content to assume that what we see, and are taught is real. The man born blind in John’s gospel chapter 9, is a figure that exemplifies all *natural* humanity. These are what Paul calls the “natural man” (*Greek psuchikos*) which can be rendered as the soulish man. This individual, male or female sees the world only from the lens of their own personality and thought. The *psuchikos* person tends to understand the world only through the familiar paradigms which they see and experience. I will some below.

Examples Of Religious Paradigms

1. The Church is the "house of God"
2. A Church is where one goes to worship.
3. All people are the children of God.
4. Religious (Spiritual) knowledge is the domain of the clergy or priesthood.
5. Heaven is the "better place" you go when you die.
6. Believers must be properly under the headship or covering of a church authority.
7. The saints and disciples are Biblical personalities from another by-gone age.
8. Signs, wonders and the miraculous have passed away in modern times.
9. New covenant Christianity excludes the root and foundation of Judaism.
10. Church leaders must be ordained and credentialed to serve as ministers.
11. Praise, Hymns and worship songs are part of the church gathering meetings.
12. Modern church consists of Bands, Dancing, 45 minute sermons by the pastor, Communion rituals.
13. Sacramental practices are required for piety and spiritual purification.
14. Liturgical art and iconography, such as stained glass windows and statuary

Biblical Support For Views that Contradict the Above Paradigms

1. The church is comprised of each person who believes and has been born into the kingdom of God. Each believer is described as a 'living stone' that forms the greater house, also known as the body of Christ.
2. You do not go to a church! Rather each believer is a component of the Church (Ekklesia- Christ's called-out body.) You and others called by Christ Jesus come together in Jesus' name. Whenever two or three gather in His name, you become an *assembly of believers* Christ the Messiah is manifested. The Ekklesia. He has called us OUT of darkness into the glorious light of the sons and daughters of God. (See link: Why Should Christians Gather?)
3. The Jews sought to stone Jesus when he inferred that God was his father. There was no such designation as 'children of God' until Jesus pronounced this doctrine on our behalf and taught his disciples to pray, " Our Father... " Furthermore, no

man comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ, the door. Others in the world are not children of God. Jn 1:12 - for those who believe on His name he gives the power (exousia = authority) to become the sons (children) of God.

4. The priesthood has actually been eliminated in the new covenant Gospel of the Kingdom. In the days of Moses, the people of Israel rejected God's plan to become a nation of kings and priests (Exodus 19:) and demanded that Moses and Aaron become the intermediaries before God on their behalf. Since the founding of the church (also the day of Pentecost) The fire of God fell on each believer and they received the Power (Gk.dunamis) to be witnesses of the wonderful works of God. Gradually after the original apostles passed from the scene, the priesthood insinuated itself back into the world of Christianity and has held believers captive until this time. The ecclesiastical traditions of formal religion dominate the whole world of Christendom today.
5. Heaven. Jesus prayer among other matters, include every petition that is essential to life of faith. It begins, after glorifying the Father, with the theme of connecting the realm of the heavenly (The Kingdom of Heaven) which is the realm of the Spirit with this world. Let thy Kingdom come. Let Thy will be done. On earth as in Heaven! This revelation of the Kingdom can be experienced two ways; First, in this present dispensation, while we live as people 'born of and led by the Spirit.' We have overlooked that which is that which prevails at the present most fundamental in the religious experience. (The Lord's prayer or the Disciple's prayer.) Heaven is a continuing reality but on a Spiritual (non intellectual) plane. Heaven was presented by Jesus as accessible by his disciples. How can heavenly things become accessible? Only through a Spirit-born and spirit-governed life in which the natural man has been transformed. The "new man" with his natural limits subdued and crucified by the POWER OF GOD. Access to heavenly things is gained by losing one's self awareness, self-identity and self-governed life. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am you may be also. - -" To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord - - I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day - - I heard - - and behold - - I see - -. Physical death is the ultimate loss of self control. "Carrying the

cross" is about losing our preoccupation with self so that Christ's life may manifest within us.

6. The concept of pastoral authority (or covering) is a feature of the tradition-bound, priest-led institutional church. It also figures strongly in the *New Apostolic-Prophetic* movement. From early times Christian priests were designated clergy and the general congregation of pew-sitting listeners was designated laity. In this paradigm the laity functions primarily as a personal support system that supports the institutional church. (Ownership of a flock of God permits the overseers to make merchandise of them.) Pastoral leadership should not be a distinctive superior class but as examples of disciples who are maturing in their own leadership. John writes regarding this misuse of authority: Read about Diotrophes in 3 John and in The Revelation see: (Nicolaitinism. See Rev. 2 and Rev. 3) This answers the question of human headship; "The Lord is my shepherd" "- My sheep hear my voice" - - "There is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." Also we are told in " Matt. 23: 7-11, to "call no man master; call no man Rabbi; call no man Father." I extend the assumption that the term "pastor" fits the criterion of religious titles that set leaders apart. We do not follow a man (person.) Servant leadership is the correct model. Pastors should possess more knowledge of the Truth and practical experiences in Spiritual matters. Experience more than religious training ought to be the preferred criterion for a mentoring shepherd.
7. We who believe and have received the transforming gift of New Life, are "called to be Saints", for we are all called to be "**in Christ Jesus**", seated in heavenly places. We are exhorted to grow up in the knowledge of Him until we reach the fullness of Him. (Ephesians 4:13.) The only question is how do we grow and how are we discipled? The pastoral leadership (discipleship) paradigm is only effective in part as it does not prepare all fellow believers for leadership and full participation in the things of God. There is a continuing notion that some are called into the ministry and then seek to be trained in "the ministry." I have heard this countless times. Discipleship is what the great commission seeks to produce. "Make

disciples of all nations.” (Matt. 28:19) Discipleship is best realized through Koinonia meaning mutual participation and sharing of the God life in fellowship. (It is my position that there is *no Ekklesia without Koinonia!*) Those called out of the world into the body of Christ have within them the essence of Jesus' love. These believers are drawn to value and share their fellow brothers and sisters that make up the body. A number of authors are adding to the same message that I promote here. We see liberty in the body being promoted and the trend to come out from institutional religious systems." *Mega Shift*" by James Rutz and other web published writings which teach the full gospel message free of institutional religious connection: One of my own published E-books is entitled, "[The Gospel Without Religion](#)."

8. Signs, wonders and miracles are either part of your religious doctrine or they are not.

Those who exclude these from their doctrines are not practicing the reality of the gospel that was “first delivered to the saints”. (Jude 3) Miracles, signs and wonders were part of the Pentecostal awakening movement that began in the Azusa Street revival in 1906. Today however, experiencing the supernatural seems to be waning, even among the Pentecostal, charismatic Christians today.

If your paradigm does not allow the supernatural you will likely not see it because you have essentially said ‘No’ to the experience. Today more supernatural signs and wonders are in evidence than ever before. There are no more powerful foundational concepts to understand than Paul's statement that *the gospel is the "POWER OF GOD"* I have not heard a substantial teaching on this phrase as it is usually, as with many familiar passages, spoken without a consciousness of its profound application. It is a key to our understanding its truth in the gospel.

The Power of God is all about what God does, and will do on our behalf. It is not about our abilities to understand the Bible, to solve problems or to transform ourselves. The "new creation" is the intitial evidence of what God does to the believer. It is solely the product of God’s hand of power moving upon us to transform us. Spiritual gifts are always a product of the power of God!

The most amazing thing any believer can ever discover is that God can and does reveal himself to us individually. This miraculous revelation awaits any empowered by the Holy Spirit seek first the kingdom and knock at heaven's door. Hebrews 11:7 is a powerful key concept in realizing that some seem to never receive the gift of salvation. "- - whoever comes to God must FIRST believe that he is and that he WILL REWARD those who diligently seek him. (!) Hebrews 11:7

9. The paradigm that the Old covenant (Judaism) is the root Into which Christianity has been grafted. Christianity is actually nothing more than the fulfillment of Messianic Judaism. The age of grace is the time foretold in which those called gentiles were invited to partake in the wholeness and fulfillment of God's word.

Jesus The Messiah was foretold and depicted typologically, from Genesis to the prophets and in the Psalms. He, The Son of Man, paved the way for that "One new man," Both Jew and Gentile could be joined as one under the Messiah. It is unfortunate that the Jewish terms like Messiah were traded in for the Greek term Kristos (the anointed one.) This designation has reinforced the deception that Judaic foundations were discarded to be replaced by Christian names which serve to turn away from anything Jewish. We Gentiles by the grace of God, have been grafted into the vine of Israel. To disregard this HERITAGE of our Jewish root and foundations is unbiblical and damnable. The Gentiles and the church age is a distinct chapter and expression of God's planned time-table in restoring his people Israel.

The physical kingdom and rule of the Messiah upon the earth is the culmination of God's plan. It will be the reign of the Messiah for 1000 years upon the earth.

10. Religious studies prepare scholars by ordination to qualify as priests and overseers. I believe, the traditional place of ordained Ministers or clergy, erroneously gives the laity an understanding that the officiant possesses power and authority that the church member does not have. We may place our faith in a priest to communicate with God on our behalf. If only the Christian world knew and understood that there is but "one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

11. and 12. The program of a church meetings is called a worship service.

The typical “worship service” is governed by time. Churches allot a time that is an acceptable for the members to tolerate. This may also depend on the number of services and the leadership assignments. Meeting the time allotment the program may easily become routine. Modern trends have worship leaders and a team of participating musicians and singers to comprise a central part of the worship program. This brings us to the question of the form and purpose of worship: ([Ephesians 5:19](#) “-addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.” From this we can see that worship is first Spiritual and Spirit- led it is God-inspired and God-focused. Music as a part of worship goes back to the model of David, the psalmist of Israel. It should never be relegated to become a performance or a concert. Godly worship is from the heart and requires the worshiper to be God-focused.

Anointing of the Holy Spirit is the evidence that God is using the speaker, singer, musician or dancer to lead us into His holy presence. Worship becomes the fire that ignites others and brings them out of themselves and makes them God-aware. Those who minister by the Spirit do not *perform*. We do see learned affectations and devices that manipulate the responses of the congregation. This is manipulation and not anointing and sadly is all too prevalent in preaching and worship.

13. Legalistic Christianity includes additional rites as part of “sanctification.” These presumably enhance the purity and piety of a believer. The *Gospel of Grace* does not include add-ons to make the believer more spiritual or more worthy before the Savior-Creator. The Lord is our Sanctification and we stand complete in him. The *Jerusalem counsel* of Acts Fifteen dealt with residual, legalistic demands after salvation. These included keeping some of the Jewish laws and making them part of the outreach to the gentiles. Today certain voices also preach a gospel of Lordship Christianity or other forms of legalism that involves appearance and behaviors which are extraneous to what Paul told the Philippian jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved -” Lordship theology asks that we continue to follow behavioral demands to grow in holiness and to avoid losing our salvation. Also remember the model of the thief on the cross who earnestly requested to

be remembered and a part of Jesus' Kingdom. That is a powerful picture of God's grace, belief plus nothing! His baptism was that of Jesus. He died on his cross!

14. Religious architecture and ornamentation along with ecclesiastical art is an important part of both ancient and modern churches. Impressive buildings have inspired the beholder since the temple of Israel. Though beautiful and awe inspiring the building does not ensure that God's presence honors it. Roman Catholic churches and cathedrals have the artful statuary and appointments at the altar and elsewhere that denote Christ's passion or the gospel. Stained glass iconography is a beautiful art form but again is not a guarantor of Christ's presence. *We believers do not Go to church but We ARE the church* who assemble wherever two or three may be. We who assemble are partakers of his Spirit and Life comprise the church and our conversations extol the gift that each has received.

The eternal questions of life that philosophers ask: "Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going?"

Where do any go to seek wisdom and answers to the mysteries of life?

Do we inquire according to secular wisdom, or religious teachings?

Or is there another?

How does Godly Wisdom contrast to secular wisdom?

How does Godly Wisdom contrast with "religious" wisdom?

The Paradigm of Worldly Wisdom, Contrasted With Godly Wisdom

(1Corinthians:1:19:KJV) The Paradigm of Worldly Wisdom Contrasted to Godly Wisdom

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,"

"- it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. "

(1Corinthians:1:21:KJV)

Again we turn to a passage in 1 Corinthians to determine the state of the “natural man or woman: *1Corinthians 2:13 And we impart this (this knowledge from God) in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 1Co 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them (this knowledge from God) because they are spiritually discerned.*”

1. Worldly wisdom extols and rewards self-exaltation and individuality while Godly wisdom says deny yourself *take up your cross, die to yourself*. In the Jesus, Spirit-led model of wisdom no man is "good

2. "Worldly wisdom is based upon observation and the appearance of things; Godly wisdom - The unseen things are eternal and have a substance yet to be known by human reason.

3. Worldly wisdom is based upon "scientific" principle and measurable phenomena. Godly wisdom - teaches that if you believe in the unseen you have faith and will see the results manifested.

4. Worldly wisdom is characterized by the domination (rulership) of the strong, the mighty over the weak. Godly wisdom - teaches that God chooses the weak and the insignificant to shame the wise and strong.

5. Worldly wisdom devalues people with few assets, (the poor) having childlike meekness and simplicity. Godly wisdom - reveals that the greatest in the kingdom of God are like children. Humble, trusting, and meek. They who are meek and “the least” are greatest.

6. Worldly wisdom values and rewards intellectual achievement and scholarship. Godly wisdom - teaches that the wisdom of man is foolishness to him. Worldly wisdom recognizes classes as inferior or superior rank and class, this is respect of persons. Godly wisdom - teaches that those who are poor shall eventually receive the blessings of the kingdom. The proud and the mighty he scatters and turns away.

7. Worldly wisdom, the world of science, views of the "vast timeless universe" diminishes or negates the need of a savior. Godly wisdom - teaches that God created the heaven and the earth by wisdom and all things that are in it. And he called his creation "good."

8. Worldly wisdom features "self preservation" as a principle Godly wisdom - speaks of self sacrifice as a divine virtue.

9. Worldly wisdom believes that one's existence may well be over when one dies Godly wisdom - we are eternal beings who retain our own soul's personal identity forever. Some will inherit eternal blessings and others will inherit eternal separation from God.

10. Worldly wisdom presumes that God regards any and all religions or faith as equal to another and valid. Worldly wisdom presumes that God does not favor any one nation over another. Godly wisdom - reveals that one nation is designated as the chosen people of God. The Bible limits only one mediator and a way to reconcile God and man. Jesus the son of God, the king of the Jews.

11. Worldly wisdom would suggest that God (if there is a god) is the same in many religions but is called by many names. Godly wisdom - though there be many gods there is but one God who is above all and we can hold no God higher than He.

12. Worldly wisdom presumes that God is essentially impersonal. Godly wisdom - says that we can become sons of God. Adapted into the family. We are called to inherit the blessings and partake in His divine nature.

13. Worldly wisdom (allowing religious belief) believes that all of the human race are automatically "children of God." Godly wisdom - Whoever believes on the Son of God, Jesus Christ has eternal life. Whoever has not the son has no life but the condemnation of God remains upon them.

A Summary: The Call of God to Open the Eyes of Those Who Slumber

We live in a world that is peopled by billions of souls. Each soul has a future and a destiny that extends into a timeless eternity. Our Eternal Creator has made a way to enable individuals, born under the curse of a fallen sin nature, to enter a place promised for the “redeemed.” We call it heaven but heaven is a term that can be cheapened of its glory by frequent use in religious and secular idioms. The promise of heaven is beyond our imaginations holding wonders and rewards for those who believe on Him who bought us by His own blood, Jesus Christ.

It is the Power of God who reaches down to us to deliver us from the bonds of death. It is the Power of God who makes eyes, once blinded to the truth, to see afresh. It is the Power of God who makes the foulest clean and to make sinners into saints. Our Eternal and Almighty God rewards those who he calls unto Himself. He takes us from our grave clothes of death and puts upon us a garment, spotless free of stains and corruption.

We live in two different worlds. One is the world *who sees*, the other is the world *where eyes are blind to the truth*. Nonetheless, in the world of the blind we have scholars, clerics and mighty men and women of achievement. These create their forms of religion; These may also have wealth and power but they remain under the aegis of the god of this world. This present ruler of a fallen world governs how we talk; our paradigms of understanding; determining the things that we value, how we set our achievement goals, and how we govern our time and activities.

Until we are freed the illusions of Satan’s bondage we as individuals are directed by self preservation, egos governed by fear, the pursuit of personal fulfillment and fleshly appetites. Our interests until we are born from above are directed self-ward. With the Spirit of Truth planted in us by the Holy Spirit we adjust our gaze heavenward and others-ward.

Charles Pinkney - - 05-21-2026 - - Additional Bible Studies