

**Tools in the Boat for Tackling the Wave
The Christian Faith and Contemporary Challenges
April 18, 2021**

“... Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:2–3)

I. God’s Sovereign Work and Wise Design

A. God rules with sovereign dominion ...

Gen 1:1 – *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Ps 135:6 – *“Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.”*

B. ... manifested in wise design, with clear distinctions, and proper naming ...

Gen 1:3, 9–10 – *“And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night ... And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.”*

Gen 1:27 – *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

C. ...in goodness, for blessing!

Gen 1:28 – *“And God blessed them.”*

Gen 2:2 – *“And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy...”*

II. Man’s Worshipful Response through Liberating Obedience

A. Man (male and female) rules rightly with delegated dominion ...

Gen 1:28 – *“And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion ...”*

Ps 2:5–6 – *“Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet ...”*

B. ... according to God’s wise design and clear distinctions, with proper naming ...

Gen 2:19 – *“Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.”*

Gen 2:23 – *“Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’”*

C. ... in goodness, unto blessing in Christ!

1 Kings 4:29–34 – “And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore,³⁰ so that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.³¹ For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.³² He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.³³ He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish.³⁴ And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.”

III. Because of God’s common grace, man’s calling to exercise dominion continues.

A. BUT because of sin, man exercises his dominion in self-serving ways, including ...

1. ... by rejecting God’s wise design and clear distinctions ...

Ps 2:2–3 – “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,³ ‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.’”

Rom 1:22–23, 25 – “Claiming to be wise, they became fools,²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things ... they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

2. ... and by constructing unjust order, crafting false distinctions, and engaging in evil naming.

James 2:9 – “But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

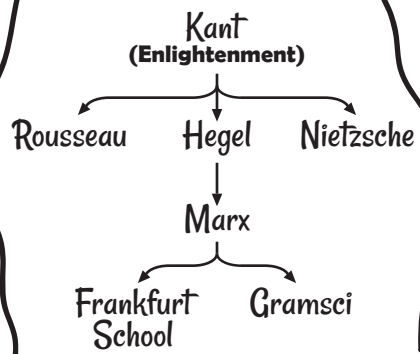
Prov 4:23 – “Partiality in judging is not good.”

Is 5:20 – “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!”

“Social justice is not optional for the Christian ... [But] [w]e can’t separate the Bible’s commands to do justice from its commands to be discerning. The oppressed deserve more than our good intentions. We must love them not merely with our hearts and hands but with our heads too. This includes carefully distinguishing true social justice from its counterfeits.”

– Thaddeus J. Williams, *Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth* (2020)

Modernism



Postmodernism

Derrida
Foucault
Lyotard

Applied Postmodernism

Secular Social Justice
Critical Race Theory
Intersectionality
Queer Theory



Christian Nationalism



↑ To Heavenly Glory ↓