

Lecture 21: The Roots of the Modern Split in Knowledge

Introduction and Review: As a follow-up to the detailed examination of the influence of the separation of religious knowledge from the rest of knowledge, Professor Barrs traces the origins of this “split” in philosophy.

The Roots of the Modern Split in Knowledge

I. A Question of Epistemology

A. John Locke (1632-1704)

1. All knowledge is from experience
2. The need to admit innate faculties to order those experiences

B. David Hume (1711-1776)

1. Causality cannot be demonstrated by reason
2. Profound skepticism

C. Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

1. An innate framework of knowledge to interpret nature
2. An innate knowledge of morality
3. Dignity of man apart from God
 - a. The significance of this idea in the 20th century setting

D. G. W. F. Hegel (c.1770-1831)

1. “A unity of opposites” between the knower and the known
 - a. Thesis
 - b. Antithesis
 - c. Synthesis
2. “The bud and the blossom”
3. Implications of process knowledge - a new relativism
 - a. Opposites may be equally true in their own moment
 - b. Never a final truth

II. Influence on the Twentieth Century

A. The sciences and Kant

1. Science a source of truth independent from God and biblical revelation
2. Accusation that Schaeffer was pre-Kantian - true!