

## THE NATURE OF REALITY

**Supreme Court Decision, Casey vs. Planned Parenthood:** At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.

**There are the two assumptions that statement is built upon.**

1. You have the right to determine the meaning and the nature of existence, the universe and the mystery of life.
2. You have the \_\_\_\_\_ to determine the meaning and the nature of existence, the universe and the mystery of life.

The good news is we are not \_\_\_\_\_ to our limited intellect or to our meager understanding of realities much greater than ourselves.

God has revealed who we are, the purpose of life and the true nature of reality in the pages of Scripture and in the person of Jesus.

**Why did Jesus live such an impactful, one-of-a-kind-life?**

**Because he understood the \_\_\_\_\_ of reality.**

If we are to live a life similar to Jesus, then we must understand reality the way he did.

### **1. THE WORLD IS A \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE.**

There is more to reality than what we can perceive with our senses.

The world for Jesus was a spiritual place and a physical place.

**Matthew 11.18-29:** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

Saying that Jesus saw the world as a spiritual place does not imply that he denied or denigrated the physical realities of human experience.

But Jesus saw reality as involving more than the physical world.

The world Jesus lived in was deeply spiritual – filled with demons, angels, and human beings who were comprised of a spiritual nature as well as a physical nature.

But he viewed our spiritual natures as being of ultimate \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 16.26:** What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for his soul?

**Luke 12.20:** You fool, this very night you will be asked for your soul! Then, who is

going to possess all that you have prepared?

Live for the physical pleasures of this world; turn to them for meaning, security and self-worth, and they will become idols and you will lose what \_\_\_\_\_ – your soul.

We tend to see the world as primarily physical.

So we live concerned with, driven by and fixated on our physical needs, comforts and advancement.

If we want to live like Jesus, that must \_\_\_\_\_.

We must realize that what we can see and hear and touch with our physical senses is but a very small piece of the tale we have fallen into.

## 2. THE WORLD IS A SPIRITUAL \_\_\_\_\_.

The tale we have fallen into is a story of spiritual warfare.

What's really going on is a battle between good and evil – the forces that would deceive, blind and enslave versus the forces that would bring freedom and truth.

**Mark 1.14-15:** "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Jesus did not come into the world to teach some nice little truths and make us a little nicer to one other.

He came to establish a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 4.18-19:** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the

prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Tell an evil power that you have come to expose his lies, free his captives, and destroy his kingdom, and you have made a \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 12.31:** Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

The tale we have fallen into is the clashing and competing of two kingdoms for world dominion.

### THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLES YOU WILL EVER FIGHT WILL BE SPIRITUAL BATTLES.

**2 Timothy 4.7:** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

#### A. YOU WILL NEED TO FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELF.

##### 1. The Flesh will \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

**Romans 8.5-8:** Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires. ... The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

##### 2. The World will \_\_\_\_\_ Us.

**1 John 2.15-16:** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

**3. The Devil will \_\_\_\_\_ Us.**

**John 8.44:** He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The flesh, the world, the devil – if you’re not up for a battle, you’re not up for becoming more like Jesus or becoming the man you were meant to be.

**B. YOU WILL NEED TO FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES FOR \_\_\_\_\_.**

Being like Jesus is not just an inward battle for our own integrity. It’s a battle to bring God’s kingdom into the lives of others.

**Luke 10.2:** The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

There are many battles to be fought.

And we are the guys who are expected to fight them.

That’s part of what it means to follow Jesus and become the men we were meant to be.

**3. WE WILL BE HELD \_\_\_\_\_ FOR WHAT WE DO WITH OUR LIVES.**

God cares greatly if we fight the inner and outer spiritual battles that make us like Christ and spread his kingdom.

**Luke 12.48:** From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.