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OUR INTELLECTUAL PRIDE

**NOW THE SERPENT.... SAID TO THE WOMAN, “DID GOD ACTUALLY SAY....?”
(Gen. 3:1)**

Whence comes the impulse – common, indeed, to us all – to trust and follow the leading of human reason in religion, rather than be content simply to take God’s word for things? Whence comes the impulse to exalt reason over revelation, and the sense of outrage which is so widely felt when the authority of reason in religion is challenged? Answer: This spirit springs from sin.

To doubt revelation in favor of a private hunch was the sin into which Satan led Eve, and Eve’s children have been committing the same sin ever since. The impulse to indulge oneself in believing something other than what God has said is an expression of the craving to be independent of God, which is the essence of sin. The attempt to know all things, including God, by reason, without reference to revelation, is the form this craving for independence takes in the intellectual realm, just as the attempt to win heaven by works and effort, without grace, is the form it takes in the moral realm. **Pride prompts fallen mankind to go about, not merely to establish their own righteousness, but also to manufacture their own wisdom. The quest all along is for self-sufficiency: Our sinful arrogance prompts us to aspire after independence of God in the realm of knowledge. We want to be intellectually autonomous, intellectually self-made men.**

The gospel, fundamentally, is a message that tells us it is useless to seek for truth about God by speculation, and it comes to us as a command to stop speculating and to put faith in what God has said, simply on the grounds that He, the God of truth, has said it. The gospel, in other words, repudiates absolutely the authority of reason and demands implicit subjection to God’s revealed truth. AMEN.

~Dr. J. I. Packer~

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

