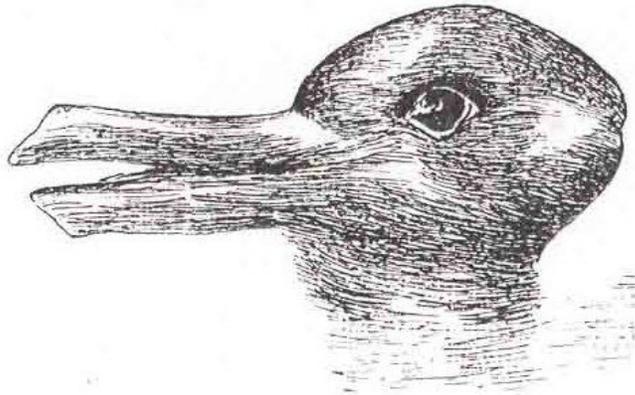


Two Perspectives Introduction

1. What do you see?



2. How is it possible to see two different things, but the same picture?

- a. This is due to our personal perspective or what psychology calls “cognitive bias”. (cf. Kendra Cherry, ‘How Cognitive Biases Influence How You Think and Act.’, www.verywellmind.com, 11/6/18)
Also see Jeff Desjardins, “24-cognitive biases that are warping your perception of reality”, www.visualcapitalist.com, 2/28/19)
- b. These are the result of education, social impressions, motivations, cultural values, etc. Simple examples of bias in perception:
 - 1.) Liberal vs Conservative
 - 2.) Western vs Chiropractic medicine
 - 3.) Climate change vs. Earth cycles
 - 4.) Peter: Eat and can’t eat (Acts 10:9-16)

3. Our task - to see which perspective is most in line with what God says, the Truth.

4. Where was the first bias perspective? Gen. 3:5-7

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

5. Why did God place just two trees in the garden?

- a. Choice - to be a person you must have choice.
- b. God wants to be known but will not force His knowing on Adam.
- c. The law of opposites - you can only know something by its opposite.
- d. There are essentially two basic perspectives on life:
 - 1.) The tree of life - *Jesus is the way, truth, and the life.* Jn. 14:6
 - 2.) The tree of knowledge or law - *By the law is the knowledge of sin* {the knowledge of good and evil, right and wrong} Rom. 3:20

6. Adam had a choice. He was the first Adam (God/man) but didn't really know who he was. Even though he had the divine breath of God in an earthen vessel, to understand who he was he needed a choice of alternatives, or opposites.
 - a. Would he choose the tree of life, Jesus, as his identity, a person in person,
 - b. Or, would he choose to understand himself through the knowledge of himself as a separate self - knowing good and evil? e.g. law, principles, commandments.
7. Each tree results in its own understandings of life:
 - a. Seeing myself as separate, needing to become like God (the lie). or
 - b. Seeing myself as already like God.
8. If we chose Christ, then we have chosen to live inside of another person. He lives our life, not us. If we do not chose Christ then we have to live our lives trying to measure up, trying to be like God, through managing our sin, living in pretension, psychosis.
9. The tree of knowledge is the tree of law, knowledge of sin, while the tree of life is a knowing who is our real life. Gal. 2:20, Col. 3:3,4
10. Let's compare the two perspectives in more detail and **see which perspective lines up best with what God says.**
 - a. It's not a matter of trying to reconcile the two perspectives into one, the thing that theologians have been trying to do for centuries, but trusting that one of these perspectives trees best represents the truth of what God says in His Word.
 - b. Don't be surprised if you do not see the other perspective at first, but you will as you are willing to receive it. (cf. Paul, Gal. 1:16)