

# Who Was Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer?

by Francis Schaeffer

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*Dr. Francis Schaeffer's unique contribution was communicating the truth of historic Biblical Christianity with intellectual integrity and practical care, having a profound and enduring impact on many thousands of people.*

**Scripture:** Proverbs 2:6, Acts 17:11, Colossians 2:8, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 3:15

**Topics:** "Christian Apologetics", "Biblical Worldview"

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## Description

Dr. Francis Schaeffer's profound impact on a generation stemmed from his ability to communicate historic Biblical Christianity with intellectual integrity and practical care, rooted in his deep commitment to Jesus Christ and critical study of humanity. He emphasized the relationship between beliefs and actions, highlighting the influence of truth on individual choices and societal trends. Through his teachings, discussions, and interactions, Schaeffer inspired many to engage with the truth of God's creation and revelation, leading to a lasting legacy seen in books, films, and academic lectures worldwide.

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## Transcript

The unique contribution of Dr. Francis Schaeffer on a whole generation was the ability to communicate the truth of historic Biblical Christianity in a way that combined intellectual integrity with practical, loving care. This grew out of his extensive understanding of the Bible from a deep commitment to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and a critical study of the world of man. These two pillars supported his inquisitive and analytical mind on the solid reality of the truth of God's creation and of his revelation. He understood the roots of modern thinking in its rejection of reality and rationality and pointed out the logical conclusions in a wide range of disciplines and in society.

Dr. Schaeffer understood that what a person believes will influence the way he acts in history and individual situations. There is a relationship between a person's view of truth and life, between philosophy and practice, between faulty ideas and foolish choices. Dr. Schaeffer discussed the truth of reality with anyone in many settings. This in turn brought students, professionals, scholars and others from around the world to his home to learn from his insights. They returned with them to their own world and applied them to their circle of life and work. The ideas continue to bear fruit and to stimulate discussions and discoveries through more than 25 books, several films, taped seminars and lectures at leading universities in Europe, the US and abroad. The result has been a profound and enduring impact upon many thousands, who have themselves gone to make their own mark in history.

The central thrust of Dr. Schaeffer's teaching is that Biblical Christianity is the truth about the real world. The only reason to be a Christian is an acknowledgement of what is objectively true about human beings, the real world and the basic human predicaments. The Bible is true in all that it affirms. This emphasis is not so much the summary of academic instructions or doctrinal positions. It is the result of a searching mind, of being exposed to human history, the European culture and art, and of in-depth discussions with knowledgeable people for a life time of study, observation and work.

With the Bible as his base and a profound interest in human beings, Dr. Schaeffer's insights were developed through the experience of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the study of Florentine society and art, in lectures followed by tough discussions at modern Cambridge, in rude exposure to the slums of Bombaay and in probing questions of people from a great variety of backgrounds, in abortion protests, in response to life in the wider arena of human need and pervasive intellectual confusion in our world.

- Udo W. Middelman, President - The Francis A. Schaeffer Foundation

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