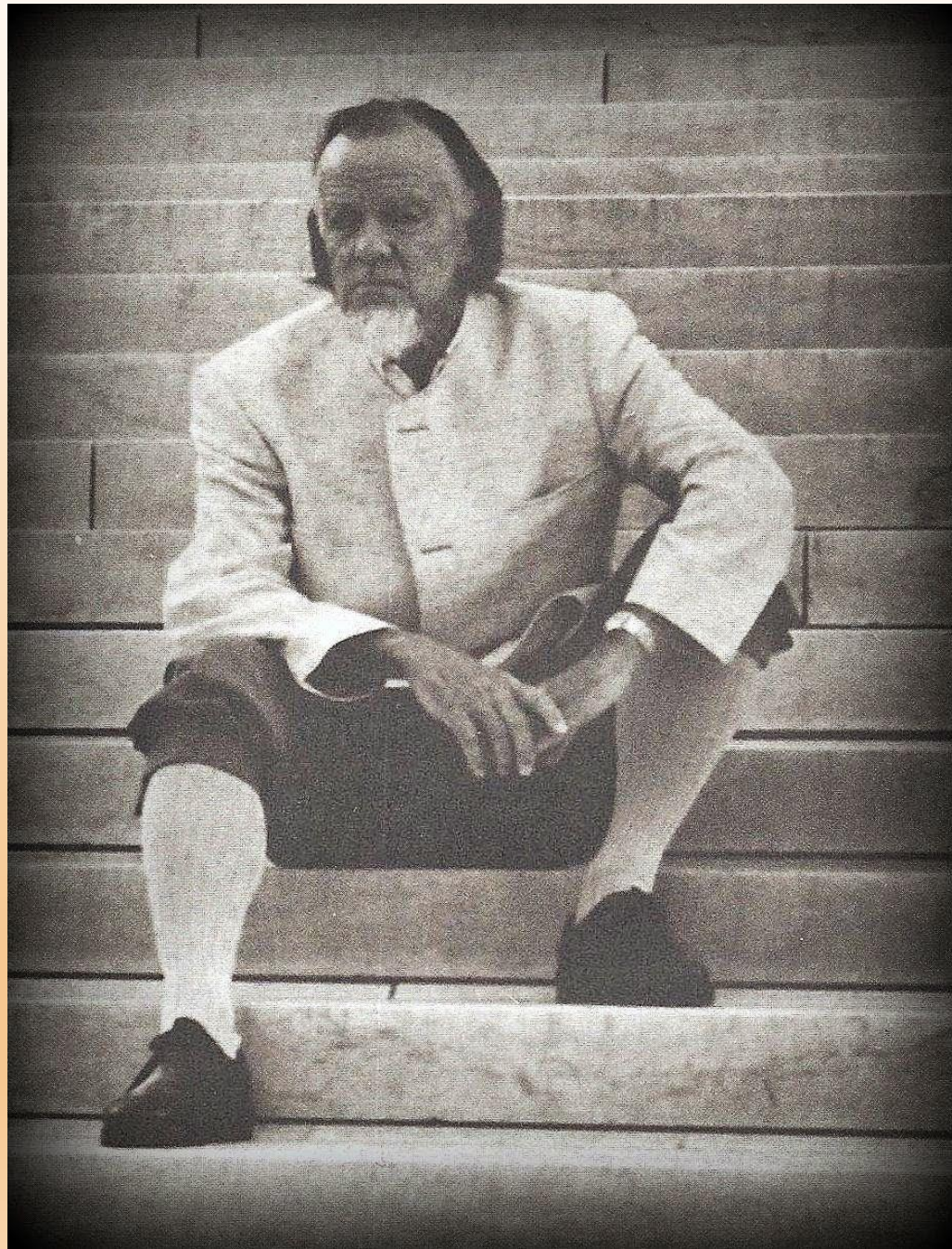


Francis
Schaeffer

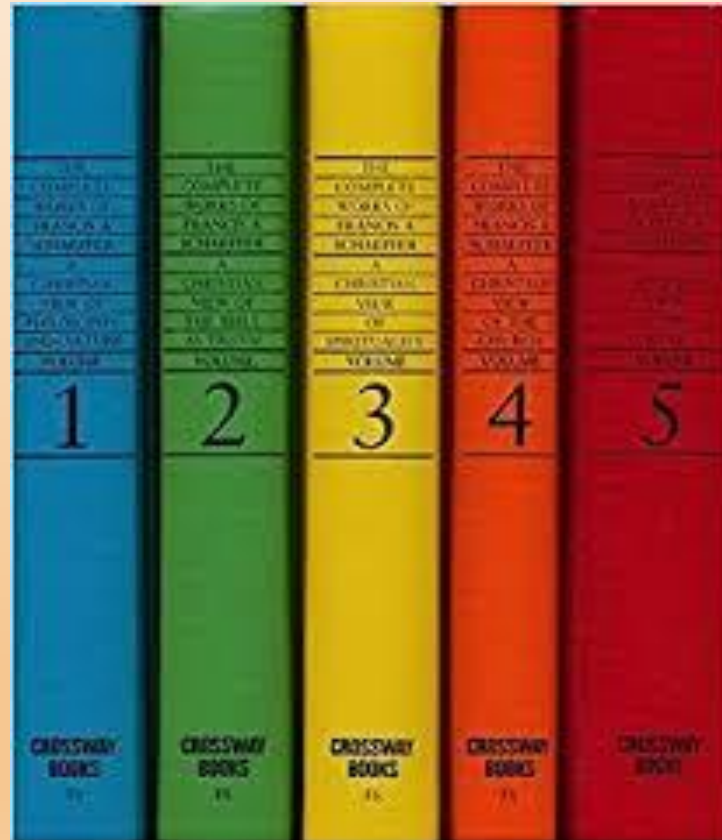
1912-1984



Resources

- “Francis Schaeffer: The Man and His Message,”
Jerram Barrs
- *Schaeffer on the Christian Life: Countercultural Spirituality*, **William Edgar**
- *The Tapestry: The Life and Times of Francis and Edith Schaeffer*, **Edith Schaeffer**

Francis Schaeffer's Works



Edith and Francis Schaeffer



Conversion (age 17, 1930)

- Dyslexia
- Greek Philosophers
- Liberal Church
- Read the Bible (cover to cover)
- He thought he had discovered something no one else knew about.

Conversion

“Have decided to give my whole life to Christ unconditionally.”

Pastoral Ministry

- **Hampton-Sydney College** (preministerial studies)
- **Met Edith** (1st summer vacation)
- **Westminster Seminary** (MDiv)

Pastoral Ministry

- Served 3 churches in U.S.
- 1948: “Macedonian” call to Switzerland

L'Abri (shelter)

Spiritual Crisis (1951)

- The Great Commandment
- Truth but little love (infighting)
- Is Christianity true?
- Rethought “the whole matter of Christianity.”

L'Abri (shelter)

Spiritual Crisis (1951)

“Biblical orthodoxy without compassion is surely the ugliest thing in the world.”

L'Abri (shelter)

“Coming up the Mountain”

- Focus of ministry: “to demonstrate the existence of God in our generation.”
- Christian apologist
- International attention
- *Time* magazine (1960): L'Abri— “Mission to the Intellectuals”

L'Abri (shelter)

Began reaching people who would not have been drawn to a typical evangelistic campaign:

- Helen Cooper: interpreter for the UN
- People on the verge of giving up on their faith

L'Abri (shelter)

Schaeffer: “If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first ***55 minutes*** asking questions and finding out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then in the last ***5 minutes*** I will share something of the truth.”

L'Abri (shelter)

Encourage each other, our children, and unbelievers to:

- ask questions
- express doubts
- raise objections against Christianity

No questions, doubts, objections were off limits at L'Abri.

L'Abri (shelter)

We do not need to say:

- “Don’t ask questions—just believe.”
- “Just pray harder!”

Schaeffer: “If you try to load every doubt, objection, and question on the donkey of devotion—eventually the donkey will lie down and die, for it is being asked to bear a load God never intended it to bear.”

L'Abri (shelter)

Some who came to the Schaeffer's home were:

- believers struggling with doubts and deep hurts
- people lost and wandering in the wasteland of twentieth-century Western intellectual thought
- experimenting with drugs or religious ideas and practices that were damaging their lives
- so wounded and bitter that they were hostile

L'Abri (shelter)

No matter who they were, how damaged they were or how hostile they were, Schaeffer would:

- be filled with compassion for them
- treat them with respect
- answer their questions

L'Abri (shelter)

Schaeffer: “You are not trying to win an argument. You are seeking to win a person, a person made in the image of God. This is not about your winning; it is not about your ego. If that is your approach, all you will do is arouse their pride and make it more difficult for them to hear what you have to say.”

Biblical Worldview

- **First**, God, the Holy Trinity, is preexistent.
- **Second**, the universe is God's creation.
- **Third**, there is the catastrophic event that changes all of history: the fall.
- **Fourth**, Jesus Christ is central to all of theology.

Biblical Worldview

- **Fifth**, salvation comes to those who lift the empty hands of faith and receive Jesus Christ.
- **Sixth**, sanctification comes in degrees.
- **Seventh**, and finally, there is glorification.

Biblical Worldview

First, God, the Holy Trinity, is preexistent.

Enables us to understand where love came from, why we are capable of love, and why we're required to love—we are made in the image of a loving God.

Biblical Worldview

Second, the universe is God's creation.

We are God's image-bearers, therefore:

- fed his passion to help alienated young people see that they had dignity and value
- challenged him to speak up for the unborn, newborn, handicapped, and elderly

Biblical Worldview

Second, the universe is God's creation.

We are God's image-bearers, therefore:

- filled him with a deep passion for racial equality and reconciliation
- he refused to “debate” with anyone, instead insisting on “dialog” (Bishop Pike)

Biblical Worldview

Third, there is the catastrophic event that changes all of history: the fall.

- Important to Schaeffer's apologetics
- Schaeffer: "The Bible is true to the way the world is."
- Atheist: "If God exists, he must be the devil."

Biblical Worldview

Fourth, Jesus Christ is central to all of theology.

- He is the Son of God
- He became man through the incarnation.
- He died for the sins of his people
- He was raised from the dead.

Biblical Worldview

Fourth, Jesus Christ is central to all of theology.

- Finally, Christ will return to the earth in personal and visible fashion.
- Creation will be restored
- Our bodies will be raised from the dead

Biblical Worldview

Fifth, salvation comes to those who lift the empty hands of faith and receive Jesus Christ.

- *Rock of Ages*: “Nothing in my hand I bring”
- Immediate justification

Biblical Worldview

Sixth, sanctification comes in degrees.

“As in marriage, the wedding day has its place, a wonderful place, but it is just the beginning of a lifelong relationship, with its ups and downs.”

Biblical Worldview

Seventh, and finally, there is glorification.

Biola University (1984)

Schaeffer challenged faculty & students to live a life before the Lord that would **shape history**.

People ask “**What are you doing here?**” They tell me I should be home in bed. But, our lives count for something in this broken world. **As long as I have breath in my body, I want to represent Christ.**”