

Finishing Well

Lesson #44 Old Gate: Do I Have A Biblical Worldview? Dec. 8

The question isn't "Do I have a worldview?" but "What worldview do I have?"

Picture two items: a set of eye-glasses and a compass. A worldview melds these together.

- Eye-glasses: Give us a lens through which to see and perceive the things around us.
- Compass: Provides direction - a sense of the way we ought to be going.

Everyone is wearing some set of "eye glasses" through which they see the world, and everyone is trying to follow their "compass" as they move through the world.

A person may be educated or uneducated, liberal or conservative, rich or poor, nonbelieving or God-fearing, but all people act and live in a certain way because they are guided by particular worldviews. [their lens and their compass]

- Comprehensive conception of the world from a specific standpoint.
- The framework from which you view reality and make sense of life and the world.
- Represents one's most fundamental beliefs & assumptions about the universe
- It's not a physical view of the world, but rather a philosophical view, an all-encompassing perspective on everything that exists and matters to us.

David Noebel [author of *Understanding the Times*]: Worldview is any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world.

Worldviews play a central and defining role in our lives. They shape what we believe and what we're willing to believe, how we interpret our experiences, how we behave in response to those experiences, and how we relate to others.

- Our thoughts and our actions are conditioned by our worldviews.

An apple sitting on a table: A botanist looking at the apple classifies it. An artist sees a still-life and draws it. A grocer sees an asset and inventories it. A child sees lunch and eats it.

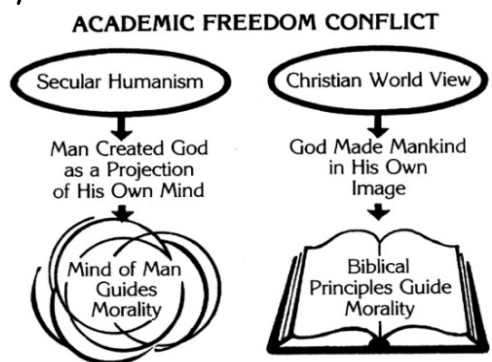
Truth: How we look at any situation is influenced by how we look at the world at large.

Your worldview reflects how you would answer all the "big questions" of human existence: fundamental questions about who and what we are, where we came from, why we're here, where we're headed, the meaning and purpose of life, the nature of the afterlife, and what counts as a good life here and now.

Within any society, certain worldview types will be represented more prominently than others, and will therefore exert greater influence on the culture of that society. Since the 4th century, Western civilization has been dominated by a Christian worldview, even though there have been individuals and groups who have challenged it. But in the last couple of centuries, for reasons ranging from the technological to the theological, the Christian worldview has lost its dominance, and competing worldviews have become far more prominent.

Non-Christian worldviews include:

1. Naturalism There is no God.
 - Humans, highly evolved animals, are the product of random acts of nature with no real purpose.
 - We can save the world through ecology and conservation.
2. Secular Humanism
 - Man is the ultimate measure by which truth and values are determined.
 - All reality and life center upon human beings. We act as God.
 - Comprehensive view of the world from a materialistic, naturalistic standpoint.
 - No place for the supernatural or immaterial.
 - No place for immortality of God.



3. Cosmic Humanism or New Age = The Cult of Man = Spiritual Secular Humanism
 - Reject any notion of doctrine, creed or organization
 - Views are based in mysticism and monism [belief that all is one]
 - Common vision: Coming new age of peace and mass enlightenment
 - Truth resides within each individual > Whatever you decide is right for you is ok as long as you don't get narrow-minded and exclusive about it
4. Postmodernism There are no objective truths and moral standards
 - That is true for you, but it is not true for me.
 - Reality is ultimately a human social construction. [Man rejects sovereign rule of God.]

Judges 21:25 Everyone did what was right in his own eyes...

- No belief system for which one would be willing to die.
- Results in death of God, truth and reason

5. Pantheism God is the totality of reality. We are all divine by nature.
6. Pluralism There are many valid paths to salvation.
 - The different world religions represent equally valid perspectives on the ultimate reality.
 - 73% of churched Millennials believe they are gifted at sharing their faith, BUT 47% of them think it is wrong to share their faith with someone of a different faith.

Why A Biblical Worldview Matters

Del Tackett: "Aligning our choices with a Biblical worldview means our choices will often run countercultural. Even well-meaning believers often have difficulty going against the consensus." Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world. Through the media and other influences, the secularized American view of history, law, politics, science, God and man affects our thinking more than we realize.

Result: We then are taken "captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" [Col. 2:8].

How does a Biblical worldview get diluted?

Nonbiblical worldview ideas don't just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them. They bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books and academia. Because we live in a selfish, fallen world, these ideas seductively appeal to the desires of our flesh, and we often end up incorporating them into our personal worldview.

- Sadly, we often do this without even knowing it.

Does my life show I truly believe God's views on: Abortion; LGBTQ lifestyle

Gambling {Prov. 13:11; I Tim. 6:9-10; Heb. 13:5; Matt. 6:24; Eccl. 5:10; I Cor. 6:12}

Fornication, Adultery

Truth: If we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading.

Jer. 6:16a Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.

- May I be obedient to God's command.

By diligently learning, applying and trusting God's truths in every area of our lives — whether it's watching a movie, communicating with our spouses, raising our children or working at the office — we can begin to develop a deep comprehensive faith that will stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture's nonbiblical ideas.

If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses to questions on abortion, same-sex marriage, cloning, stem-cell research and even media choices.

THE CALL TO BATTLE

Prov. 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

I Tim. 6:20-21a Timothy, keep [guard] that which is committed to thy trust,

What do I guard?

- Holy Scripture Revelation from God
- The Standard Romans 6:17
- Whole counsel of God Acts 20:27
- The Pattern II Tim. 1:13-14

II John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

How do I guard it?

- By believing God's Word John 5:24
- By honoring God's Word Job 23:12
- By loving God's Word Ps. 119:97
- By obeying God's Word John 8:31
- By proclaiming God's Word II Tim. 4:2
- By defending God's Word Jude 1:3
- By studying God's Word II Tim. 2:15

Refrain from the world's talk

Turn away from godless chatter = fruitless; without purpose [avoid profane and vain babblings]

- Avoid oppositions of science falsely so called [opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge.]
- Oppose arguments that seem smart but hollow
- Which some professing have Erred Concerning The Faith.

II Tim. 2:15-18 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; ¹⁸ Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Question: Am I guarding the truth that has been entrusted to me through the deposit of the Holy Spirit by studying, knowing and believing it firsthand?

Does my understanding of Grace have me believing in a God-centered gospel?

I Pet. 1:13 Therefore, prepare [gird up] your minds for action, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

I Pet. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be prepared [ready] always to give an answer [apologia] to every man who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

A Christian living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ must know both what he believes and why he believes. In the day in which we live, this has never been more important.

The challenge is greater than ever. Don't be discouraged!

For Christians to respond to these challenges we must hear afresh the words of Jesus from the Great Commandment.

Matt. 22:37-38 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. [emotionally, volitionally & cognitively]

This is the first and great commandment.

This kind of love for God results in taking every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ [II Cor. 10:5], a wholehearted devotion to distinctively Christian thinking

This means being able to see life from a Christian vantage point; it means thinking with the mind of Christ.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

- Being able to see life from a Christian vantage point; thinking with the mind of Christ

I Cor. 2:16b but we have the mind of Christ.

- I look at life through the Savior's viewpoint; have His values & desires in mind
- I think God's thoughts and do not think as the world thinks.

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Prov. 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. [my compass]

The opportunities and resources available to us are also greater now than they have ever been. In the last half-century or so there has been a remarkable renaissance in Christian philosophy and apologetics, much of which has focused on developing and defending a Biblical worldview.

Whatever God calls His people to do, He equips them to do [Eph. 4:11-12; Heb. 13:20-21].

Consider: The problem is not that the church is under-equipped, but that she has yet to make full use of what Christ has provided for her.

Building A Biblical Worldview

What is a Biblical View?

- Worldview based on the infallible, unchanging Word of God.
- Since God is the Creator of everything in heaven and earth, He is the standard for truth.
- If you believe the Bible is absolutely TRUE, you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and DO.

Tackett: July 27, 2021 A Biblical worldview is not just a theoretical idea.

- A Biblical worldview changes the way we respond to major events in the world.

Peter DeHaan We must scrutinize everything we do through the lens of Scripture.

- The goal isn't to justify our human traditions but to reform and change our behavior.

Elements of Biblical Worldview

- Belief in absolute oral truth as defined in God's Word
- Acceptance of the accuracy of Biblical teaching
- Acceptance of the sinless nature of Jesus Christ
- Acceptance of the literal existence of Satan
- Acceptance of the omnipotence and omniscience of God
- Acceptance of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ
- Acceptance of the personal responsibility to evangelize

Biblical worldview starts in Genesis 1:1 and ends with Revelation 22:21.

- In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen
- It explains the cause for the universe and the purpose for mankind.
- Mission of Jesus Christ to redeem all who are cut off from God by their sins. [Isa. 59:2]
- Suffering is a vapor in time compared to the glorious eternity in our future. [Rom. 8:18]
- My circumstances will be for my best, regardless of how it feels at the time. [Rom. 8:28]
- God can use evil for His own good purposes. [Gen. 50:20; John 3:16]

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. [Joseph = a type of Jesus Christ]

Consider: The more you study the Bible and see the enormous amount of grace God has poured out for us in the Person of Jesus Christ should bring you to a place of humility before God. I Cor. 8:1 Biblical knowledge can puff us up, but it should humble us to know that God has saved wretches like us [Rom. 7:24].

Rom. 3:10-12, 23 Fallen nature of man; All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

- The inability to save one's self Eph. 2:8-9

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Rom. 5:8, 10 Jesus died for us while still His enemies, living in wickedness

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- This should make us flee to the cross in repentance, confession, and faith in Christ.

Truth: If you hold to a Biblical worldview, you see the world through these unchangeable truths.

- Jesus is God; Jesus was sinless; Jesus Christ alone saves Acts 4:12
- There are absolute, objective moral truths in the Bible Ex. 20
- Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for many Matt 20:28
- All who believe in Him receive eternal life & forgiveness John 3:16

Fulfilled prophecy is the best apologetic for proving that the Word of God is of supernatural origin and that we can turn to it with great assurance. It also indicates what lies ahead for the church and the world. Scripture foretells that the imminent Rapture of the church, the Great Tribulation, the Second Coming, the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Dissolving of Our Present Heavens and Earth, and the Creating of a New Heaven and New Earth, will all take place, in that order.

Note: The "worldview" of Scripture is not global transformation until the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Even then, it will not be a perfect society because the Bible tells us that it will end with the rebellion of those who went along with the laws and principles of Christ's rule but who never committed their hearts and minds to Him.

God's Created Order: Disciplines

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|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Gen. 1:1 | Theology, Philosophy | In The Beginning |
| 2. Gen. 2:9 | Ethics | God establishes what is right |
| 3. Gen. 1:21 | Biology | According to its kind |
| 4. Gen. 2:7 | Psychology | A living thing |
| 5. Gen. 1:28 | Sociology | Be fruitful & multiply |
| 6. Gen. 3:11 | Ethics, law | I commanded you |
| 7. Gen. 9:6 | Law, politics | Whoever sheds man's blood |
| 8. Gen. 1:29 | Economics | It shall be for food |
| 9. Gen. 3:1 | History | Enmity between you & the woman |
| 10. Ps. 24:1 | Economics | |
| 11. Titus 2:13 | Theology, philosophy | |
| 12. Luke 1:46-47 | Psychology, theology | |
| 13. Rom. 13:1-10 | Politics, law, sociology | |

Significance Of Each Discipline Seen As God Manifests Himself In The Form Of Christ

In theology	Christ is the "fullness of the Godhead."	Col. 2:9
In philosophy	Christ is the Logos of God	John 1:1
In ethics	Christ is the "True Light."	John 1:9; 3:19-20
In biology	Christ is "The Life"	John 1:4, 14; 11:25; Col. 1:16
In psychology	Christ is Savior	Luke 1:46-47; Titus 2:13
In sociology	Christ is Son	Luke 1:30-31; Isa. 9:6
In law	Christ is lawgiver	Gen. 49:10, Isa. 9:7
In politics	Christ is King of kings & Lord of lords	Rev. 19:16; I Tim. 6:15; Lu. 1:33
In economics	Christ is Owner of all things	Ps. 24:1; 50:10-12; I Cor. 10:26
In history	Christ is Alpha & Omega	Rev. 1:8

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: There are not two realities, but only one reality and that is the reality of God, which has become manifest in Christ in the reality of the world."

Biblical Worldview Questions: Dr. Heinz Lycklama [Questions are used by George Barna]

Do absolute moral truths exist?

Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?

Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?

Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe. Does He still rule today?

Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?

Is Satan real?

Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with others?

Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?

Barna Research Survey:

4% of American adults have a Biblical worldview

9% of "born-again" Christians have a Biblical worldview.

➤ Does your life show that you truly have a Biblical worldview?

5% of married people versus 2% of single people have a Biblical worldview.

10% of Republicans and 1% of Democrats have a Biblical worldview.

51% of Protestant pastors have a Biblical worldview.

Those Without A Biblical Worldview Are More Likely To...

46% v. <1% Endorse abortion

39% v. <1/2% Say that exposure to pornography is morally acceptable

62% v. 2% Say that living together before marriage is morally acceptable

31% v. 2% Believe that homosexual lifestyle is acceptable

36% v. 2% Endorse drunkenness

37% v. 3% Accept profanity

44% v. 4% Say adultery is OK

8x more likely Gamble by purchasing lottery tickets

National Congregations Study 2019: Less than 10% of sermons preached in Evangelical churches even mentioned hell, sin, salvation or Heaven. 54% of U.S. churches allow openly gay or lesbian couples to hold full-fledged membership, an increase of 70% compared to 12 years ago.

Alex MacFarland: Truth For A New Generation:

Can you get to heaven even if you don't believe in God?

68% of Catholics, 56% of mainline Protestant Christians, and 21% of evangelicals

➤ Yes, it is possible for an unrepentant atheist to get to heaven.

American Worldview Inventory, 2020 34% of Evangelicals believe abortion is morally acceptable if it spares the mother's financial or emotional stress.

There were 5 times more web searches conducted for "End Times" in March 2020, compared to any other month since Google began collecting data more than 15 years ago. However, by the last week of September, interest in "End Times" searches faded to pre-Covid days.

Almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of Americans, 44%, have no idea where they will go when they die.

Only 2% believe they will go to Hell.

The Digital Pulpit, 2019 A person, attending every service in an evangelical church for 2 months straight, would have less than a 10% chance of hearing a phrase that included the words: hell, or redemption. These are 2 of the most distinctive words that characterize evangelical beliefs.

Gallup Poll, 2021: Do you think marriages between same sex-couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriage?

- 70% of Americans support same-sex marriages.

Stephen Black: What's more disturbing:

- True with the majority of so-called Christians, revealing just how very few who attend church are sincere followers of Christ.
- Statistics from a 2021 Barna study show 70% of 14-24 year-olds, now embrace the idea of at least "trying out" homosexual behavior as a normal part life.
It is encouraged to be sexually perverse.

George Barna: New Insights into the Generation of Growing Influence: Millennials In America

➤ leads research at Arizona Christian University's Cultural Research Center
Explains a number of the daunting challenges faced by the generation of 78 million
➤ Defined in this report as those born from 1984 through 2002 [ages 19 - 37]
"For understandable reasons, millions of millennials reject organized religion, or have qualms about religious leaders, and especially about religious people who may prove to be hypocritical. Their experiences, observations and assumptions regarding religion, spiritual beliefs, and faith practices have produced a turbulent spiritual experience."

- Nearly 1/3 of America's largest, most educated generation identify as LGBTQ.
40% of adults 18-24 identify as LGBTQ.
- 75% are "searching for a sense of purpose in life."
- 59% see Jesus as a little positive 39% viewing Him as "very positive"
- ~50% view Bible as a little positive 29% "very positive" impression
- Christianity in general: only half of millennials see it as at least "a little positive."
- A majority of the generation also reject atheism, with only
 - 25% see it as "a little positive" 8% viewing it as "very positive"

This troubled generation is searching for answers to their problems, while "disengaged from spiritual teaching and practice, resulting in a paucity [insufficient amount] of knowledge, understanding, experience, and growth in this realm."

- The resultant spiritual illiteracy virtually resigns them to a superficial worldview in which they grasp at ideas and practices that provide immediate comfort rather than lasting truth and peace.
- The widespread confusion among young adults regarding aspects of their identity — spiritual, sexual, and also related to their sense of purpose in life — are a direct outgrowth of that spiritual wisdom vacuum," he added.
- "It seems that often young adults fill the void by creating a self-image that is built upon self-centeredness, self-reliance, and independence.

That may be perceived as arrogance, but as much as anything it may also be a defense mechanism covering up their personal deficits with which they wrestle."

Solution: to the challenges being faced by millennials: Shifting Worldview.

Barna: "Given the centrality of worldview to the human experience, there can be no improvements to the life millennials lead without addressing the fundamental role of worldview." "Because worldview is developed and carried out in the competitive marketplace of beliefs and behaviors, think about the pervasive consequences for millennials of rejecting the Biblical worldview in favor of other, more popular alternatives."

A Biblical worldview = your total concept of the world from a Biblical standpoint.

It's a Christian's basic belief system about the:

- meaning of life, nature of God, the source of truth, and other foundational concepts.

Why do many Christians not have a consistent Biblical worldview?

1. They lack Biblical knowledge. [Hosea 4:6]

If someone doesn't know the Bible stand regarding the sanctity of human life, it will be difficult for him/her to form a Biblical view on the subject.

- For the uninformed, education is the key.

2. They reject what the Bible says on certain issues. The Barna Group asked questions about the Bible to determine if people truly believed what the Bible said.

The results were startling: only 4% did. Professed Christians did not fare much better.

- For those who are contrary, repentance is the key.

3. They are more concerned with what the world thinks of them than what God thinks.

Prov. 29:25a Fear of man will prove to be a snare...

- For those who are fearful, courage is the key.

4. They are lukewarm in their commitment to Christ.

Rev. 3:15 They are "neither cold nor hot;" unwilling to take a stand for Christ.

- For the lukewarm, commitment is the key.

5. They are influenced by the lies of the world.

Satan's ability to deceive and confuse is a powerful tool in Satan's arsenal. [Gen. 3:1-6]

Satan works to convince people: The Bible is full of myths and errors. It is not trustworthy.

It is no longer relevant; its laws and principles are obsolete.

- For the deceived, discernment is the key.

Spurgeon: Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong.

Discernment is knowing the difference between right and almost right.

6. They are swayed by their circumstances and doubt God's promises.

Matt. 14 When Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on the water, he was demonstrating a Biblical worldview: Jesus is the source of all power.

However, when Peter focused on the storm-tossed sea, his worldview shifted: maybe the waves are more powerful than Jesus.

- For the doubting, faith is the key.

To have a consistently Biblical worldview, go back to the Bible and take hold of the promises God has made to us, for the world offers us nothing [Luke 9:25; John 12:25; Matthew 6:19].

Do I have a worldview for which I would be willing to die?

Jim Elliot: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.

Soren Kierkegaard: There was a time when one could almost be afraid to call himself a disciple of Christ because it meant so much. Now one can do it with complete ease because it means nothing at all. [1813-55 Danish philosopher/theologian Quoted in Bible Review, April 2000.]

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

[1906-1945 The Cost of Discipleship /German pastor/theologian/Hanged by the Nazi's for attempting to assassinate Adolf Hitler]

A.W. Tozer A true disciple does not consider Christianity a part-time commitment.

He has become a Christian in all parts of his life.

He has reached the point where there is no turning back.

Phil. 1:21 For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Often we look at God through the lens of life.

How different would things be if we looked at life through the lens of God?

Developing A Hunger For The Things Of God

Lord, I pray You will stir in my prodigal's heart and bring her to a place of repentance followed by an ever-increasing hunger for You.

May she long for Your presence - - long to spend time with you in prayer, praise and worship.

Give her a desire for the truth of Your Word and a love for Your laws and Your ways.

Teach her to live by faith and be receptive to the Holy Spirit.

Bring her to a place of obedience to the Holy Spirit and to Your Word.

May she be aware of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in her that when she is depleted in any way, she will immediately run to you to be renewed and refreshed.

I pray her heart will not have any allegiances or diversions away from You, but rather that she would be repulsed by ungodliness and all that is in opposition to You. May a deep reverence and love for You and Your ways color everything she does and every choice she makes.

[Excerpt from "The Power of A Praying Parent"]