

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Developing a Biblical Worldview

Why We Need a Biblical Worldview

Introduction: Whether we realize it or not, each one of us has a worldview. It is the prism through which we look at the world, and it is the means by which we interpret the events that happen around us. Therefore, our challenge as believers is to understand how our worldview measures up to Scripture and the crucial role that it plays in seeing things the way that Jesus Christ sees them.

I. Defining a Worldview

- A. The term refers to any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man's relation to God and the world. (David Noebel)
- B. A worldview answers four key questions:
 - 1. Where did I come from?
 - 2. Why is the world in such a mess?
 - 3. Is there a solution?
 - 4. What is my purpose in all of this?

II. Researching the Way We Make Moral Choices (The Barna Group)

- A. Slightly more than half (54%) of a group of 1,002 adult respondents make moral choices on the basis of specific principles or standards in which they believe.
 - 1. Only three of five of these named the Bible as a source of those principles.
 - 2. Overall, just one of six adults claimed the Bible as a source of decision-making.
- B. Slightly more than one-third (35%) believed that moral truth is absolute.
- C. Eight criteria were used to determine whether or not one had a Biblical worldview.
- D. Barna's results indicated that only 5% of respondents hold a Biblical worldview.

III. Understanding the Ten Disciplines or Categories That Make a Worldview

- A. Theology and Philosophy
- B. Ethics and Law
- C. Biology and Psychology
- D. Sociology and Politics
- E. Economics and History

IV. Considering the Scriptural Basis for a Biblical Worldview

- A. As believers, we have received the Spirit so that we might know the things freely given to us by God. (I Corinthians 2: 12)
 - 1. Through the Spirit, we are able to spiritually appraise all things. (v. 15)
 - 2. We have been given the mind of Christ. (v. 16)
- B. The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. (I Corinthians 1: 20)
- C. The Essence of a Biblical Worldview (see Chart on Page 2)

Conclusion: If we are to see things the way that our Lord sees them, we can only do so by having a Biblical worldview. This is the essence of what the Apostle Paul meant when he said that we have the mind of Christ. It is only by this means that we take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10: 5).

1 Chronicles 12:32 Of the sons of Issachar, *men who understood the times*, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen *were* at their command.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. ¹⁴ *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God*, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? *But we have the mind of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 10:5 *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ*, ... [emphasis added]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) In your own words, how would you define the term “worldview?”
- 2.) **Read Colossians 2: 6-8.** What do you think the Apostle Paul meant when he said “see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of man, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” Explain how these things impact our worldview.
- 3.) Of the ten disciplines or categories listed in the chart below, where do you think such things from our modern culture such as the arts, literature, music, and movies would fit? Explain.
- 4.) Reflecting back over your life, share with your small group some of the things or people which have influenced your worldview.
- 5.) What does it mean in I Corinthians 2: 16 that we have the mind of Christ? What are the essential things that must take place in order for this to happen?
- 6.) In the chart below, rank in order of importance those disciplines or categories that you think are most important in forming a Biblical worldview. Explain why you ranked a particular category last among the ten.

The Essence of a Biblical Worldview

THEOLOGY	View of God: Theism
PHILOSOPHY	View of Reality: Supernaturalism
ETHICS	View of Morality: Moral Absolutes
LAW	View of the Source of Law: Natural Law
BIOLOGY	View of Origin: Creation
PSYCHOLOGY	View of Mankind: Fallen Human Nature
SOCIOLOGY	View of Social Institutions: Traditional Home, Church, and State
POLITICS	View of Government’s Role: Justice/Freedom/Order
ECONOMICS	View of Economy: Stewardship of Property
HISTORY	View of the Meaning of History: Historical Resurrection

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