

Northview University: Worldviews 101

“Learning to Love God with Your Worldview”

Session 2: “Digging Deeper into the Nature of a Christian Worldview”

ANSWERS IN COLOR

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Preparation and Introduction

- A. Biblical background: Please read the following passages in preparation for session 2 or as a follow-up to session 2: Matt. 6:1-4, 19-24; Rom. 8:5-14; 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 10:3-7; Col. 3:5-10; Eph. 4:11-32; Gal. 5:16-26; Heb. 5:11-14; 6:1-3; James 4:1-8, 13-17.
- B. If possible, take the online “worldview test” at:
 1. <http://www.worldviewweekend.com/test/register.php?testid=WORLDVIEW&groupreg=19225d856>.
 2. OR, (a) go to www.worldviewweekend.com; (b) click on “Free Worldview Test”; (c) put “19225d856” in the “Group Code” box; (d) complete the registration on that page; and (e) take the test.
- C. Additional materials for this class (and a link to the worldview test) can be accessed at <http://www.worldvieweyes.org/northview.html>.
- D. Review of Session 1.

I. The Need for a Biblical (Christian) Worldview.

- A. Barna Research Group stats on American religious life (i.e., those who are “born again”¹ and those who have a “biblical worldview”).²
 1. American adults who are “BORN AGAIN”? _____ %. **45%**
 2. American CHURCHED TEENS? _____ %. **81%**
 3. Born-again ADULTS with a “biblical worldview”? _____ %. **9%**
 4. American TEENS with a “biblical worldview”? _____ %. **[2%]**
 5. Americans age 18-23 with a “biblical worldview”? _____ % **[<.5%]**
 6. CHURCHED TEENS who say that learned the Bible stories at church? _____ % **95%**
 7. CHURCHED TEENS who have a “biblical worldview” _____ % **9%**
 8. PREACHERS who say they’re doing an “excellent job” at giving a biblical worldview to their members? _____ % **75%**

¹ “Born Again”: (1) “Individuals who have made a personal commitment to Christ that remains important in their life and who (2) believe they will go to heaven after they die because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior” (Barna Research Group, www.barna.org).

² Barna describes having a “biblical worldview” as (1) being “born again”; (2) trusting Christ for salvation; and accepting (3) absolute moral truth, (4) the moral standards of the Bible, (5) Satan’s existence, and (6) Jesus’ sinless life.

9. CHURCHED TEENS who will NOT REMAIN ACTIVE in church in their twenties?
_____ %61% (10 Mill. are currently involved, but 8 million current
churched teens won't be active through their twenties)

B. Primary reasons why we lack a biblical worldview.

1. Contentment with the _____ MILK of the Word (Heb. 5:12-14).

a. **Hebrews 6:1-3** We must move beyond _____ ELEMENTARY
principles.

b. **Eph. 4:11-15** We must move toward _____.

MATURITY

c. **James 2:19; Heb. 11:6c** Having right _____ BELIEFS alone is
not enough.

2. _____ MIND-LESS Christianity.

3. The _____ GAP between belief and behavior.

Your own examples?

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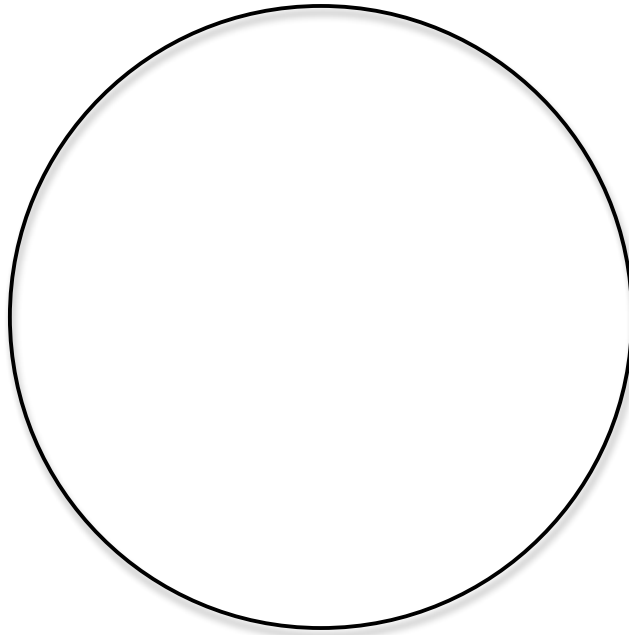
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4. The dichotomy between _____ SACRED and

_____ SECULAR.

a. "Pie" discipleship

Home life	Community- Politics	Social Relationships	Education- School	Entertainment
Hobbies	Recreation	Church	Sexuality	Work
Spiritual things	Money- Possessions	?	?	?



b. **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" (NASV).

"We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ" (The Message)

What "letter grade" would you give to yourself? _____

5. Blindness to the _____ BIG picture.

C. The “tool” of “Biblical Worldview” can help provide ...

1. The _____ **MEAT** for maturity.
2. A distinctively _____ **CHRISTIAN** mind.
3. Needed _____
INTEGRATION
4. A faith that is relevance to _____ **ALL** of life.
5. A usable _____ **FRAMEWORK** for understanding and critical analysis.

II. “Testing” for a Biblical Worldview

A. What’s YOUR worldview?

B. Biblical Worldview “tests”

1. Barna Research Group criteria (see footnote 2 above).
2. Nehemiah Institute (PEERS test) (www.nehemiahinstitute.com).
 - a. Abbreviation Key
 - (1) SA = Strongly agree
 - (2) TA = Tend to agree
 - (3) N = No opinion
 - (4) TD = Tend to disagree
 - (5) SD = Strongly disagree
 - b. Sample questions
 - (1) Unemployment is primarily caused by a lack of demand for goods and services.
 - (2) Competitive free-enterprise is the fairest type of economic system.
 - (3) Elementary and secondary schools should be operated with no financial assistance from state and/or federal tax revenues.
 - (4) A federal Department of Education is necessary to ensure harmony of instructional technique and content of learning in all schools.
 - (5) A government-run program to ensure financial security at retirement age (e.g. Social Security) is in the best interest of the nation as a whole.
3. Worldview Weekend online worldview test (www.worldviewweekend.com). Results?

III. Different Approaches to a Christian (Biblical) Worldview³

A. Comparative Philosophies

1. James Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, 5th ed., 2009. (See session #1 notes, section II.C.)
2. Sire's worldviews and worldview categories.

B. Theological Categories: _____, CREATION _____, FALL _____, REDEMPTION _____

1. E.g. Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?*
2. E.g. Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth*

C. Socio-Academic Areas

1. E.g. The Truth Project (www.thetruthproject.org).
2. Colson's Center for Christian Worldview (www.colsoncenter.org).
3. David Noebel's *Understanding the Times* and Summit Ministries (www.summit.org).

D. Loving God with the "core" of who you are (cf. Mark 12:30).

1. Application to the **individual "ME."** (See chart at the end of this session's notes.)

- a. Mind / Imagination
- b. Emotions: Feelings, conscience
- c. Speech
- d. Behavior
- e. Will: Deepest desires, motives
- f. Integrity vs. hypocrisy: Sample questions:
 - (1) Am I consistent in these areas? Do they consistently match?
 - (2) Do these areas of who I am reflect a LOVE—a deep DESIRE—for God?
 - (3) What do I SAY but DON'T DO?
 - (4) What BELIEFS do I profess but don't live in my ACTIONS?
 - (5) Is my SPEECH consistent with my professed BELIEFS?
 - (6) What do I actually DO that is right but I don't really WANT to do?
 - (7) Is my CONSCIENCE hurt by things that my BELIEFS say are wrong?

2. Application to our **relations with others.**

- a. Spouse
- b. Children / Grand Children
- c. Parents
- d. Grand Parents
- e. Brothers / Sisters
- f. Church leaders and fellow members
- g. Workplace friends & acquaintances
- h. Schoolmates
- i. Sample questions:
 - (1) How conscious am I of relating to others as an expression of my love for God?
 - (2) What biblical passages and principles specifically guide me in my relationships?

³ See the separate bibliography of resources on worldviews, Christian apologetics, and science.

3. Application to our **professions**.
 - a. What is/was your profession?
 - b. How could/should your Christian faith guide your approach to your profession?
 - c. What biblical passages and principles are especially relevant to your work?
 - d. To what extent do you do your work “to the glory of God”?
4. Application to **social/political values and institutions**.
 - a. Are my social and political values influenced by biblical principles? Which ones? How?
 - b. What do I consider the “hot” social/political issues? How much have I sought biblical guidance on these issues?
 - c. How is my view of government influenced by biblical principles?
5. Application to **academic disciplines** (e.g. sciences, education, literature, art, psychology, history, art, economics)
 - a. What are the dominant guiding *assumptions* in this discipline?
 - b. Are these assumptions compatible with a biblical worldview?
 - c. What Christian critique and contribution can I bring to these disciplines?

IV. Biblical Case Studies: Living Your Christian Worldview with Integrity.

1. Romans 12:1-2

2. Colossians 3:5-10

3. 2 Corinthians 10:5

4. Exercise: See the chart and scriptures below.

5. The importance of a Christian worldview
 - a. For YOURSELF: More _____ . **INTEGRITY**
 - b. For OTHERS: Better _____ . **WITNESS**
 - c. For CULTURE: Greater _____ . **IMPACT**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

Mind

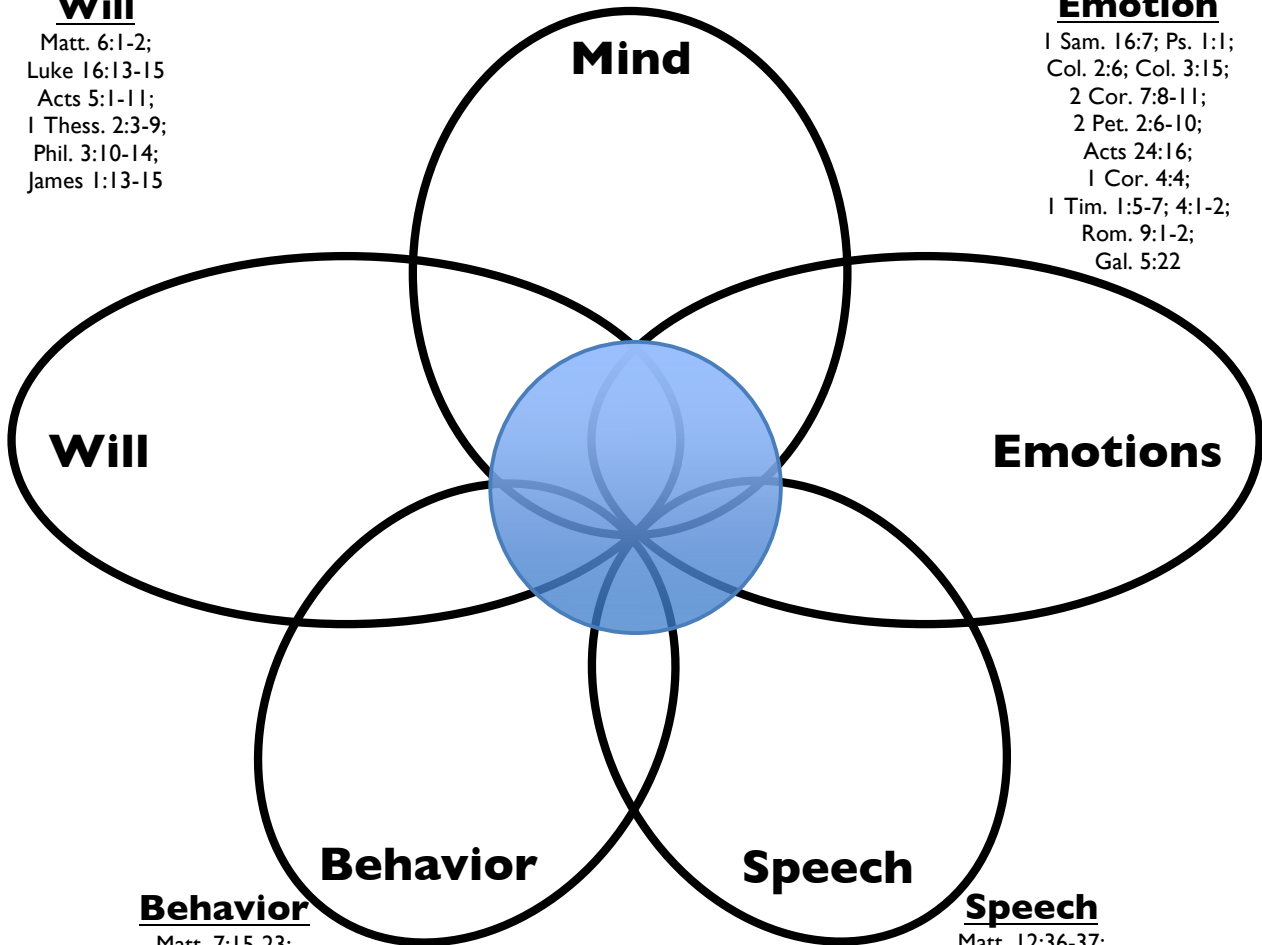
Rom. 8:5-9;
Rom. 12:2;
1 Cor. 2:14-16;
2 Cor. 10:3-5;
2 Cor. 11:3-4

Will

Matt. 6:1-2;
Luke 16:13-15
Acts 5:1-11;
1 Thess. 2:3-9;
Phil. 3:10-14;
James 1:13-15

Emotion

1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 1:1;
Col. 2:6; Col. 3:15;
2 Cor. 7:8-11;
2 Pet. 2:6-10;
Acts 24:16;
1 Cor. 4:4;
1 Tim. 1:5-7; 4:1-2;
Rom. 9:1-2;
Gal. 5:22



Behavior

Matt. 7:15-23;
Rom. 12:1;
1 Cor. 6:9-10;
1 Cor. 10:6-12;
Gal. 5:19-21;
Eph. 5:3-13
Col. 3:5-6;
1 Thess. 4:2-8;
1 Tim. 1:8-11

Speech

Matt. 12:36-37;
Matt 15:10-11;
Col. 4:6;
James 1:26;
James 4:13-14;
1 Tim. 4:12