

“God’s Call to a Christian Worldview”

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ANSWERS IN COLOR

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Introduction

- A. Our culture
- B. Key questions
 - 1. What is a “_____”? **WORLDVIEW**
 - 2. What is a “_____ **CHRISTIAN** worldview”?
 - 3. What are the _____ **ALTERNATIVE** worldviews?
 - 4. How can I be _____ **CONFIDENT** with my Christian worldview?

I. What is A “Worldview”?

- A. Three helpful Christian contributions to understanding worldview.
 - 1. A set of **BELIEFS**. (“... a set of presuppositions” James Sire, *The Universe Next Door*, 1976, 1988, 1997).
 - 2. An orientation of the **HEART**. (“The heart of the matter of worldview is that worldview is a matter of the heart.” David Naugle, *Worldview: The History of a Concept*, 2004, p. 269.)
 - 3. What we **DO**, as guided by what we **LOVE** (or “worship”). (“What’s at stake is not primarily ideas but love.” James K. A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*, 2009, p. 11.)
- B. A synthesis: Worldview as the **CORE** of who you are.
 - 1. Heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk 12:30).
 - 2. Heart, soul, strength (Deut 6:5).
- C. Df. of a “worldview”: “A way of life that perceives and engages the world according to a set of basic beliefs and values.”

II. Worldview “Facts” and “Functions”

- A. _____ **EVERYBODY** has a worldview.
- B. A worldview consists of _____ **BASIC** beliefs and values.
- C. Worldviews are typically _____ **SUBCONSCIOUSLY** adopted and held.
- D. People are often _____ **INCONSISTENT** with their WV.
 - o Belief<>Belief Belief<>Behavior Speech<>Behavior Behavior<>Desire
- E. A worldview is detected, not simply from professed beliefs, but from patterns of _____ **ACTION**.
- F. A worldview provides the _____ **BIG** picture.
- G. Significant disagreements often involve _____ **CONFLICTING** WVs.
- H. Worldview is a _____ **TOOL**.
 - 1. To move beyond “elementary principles” (Heb 6:1-3) to Christian maturity (Heb 5:11-14; Eph 4:11-15).
 - 2. To overcome “mindless” Christianity.

3. To close the gap between “sacred” and “secular.”
4. To foster greater personal integrity.
5. To facilitate more effective Christian witness and cultural impact.
6. To increase awareness of the connection between Christian faith and all of life.
7. To compare Christianity with other ways of life (other worldviews).

III. Competing Worldviews in Scripture

- A. Genesis vs. ancient Near-Eastern creation myths (Gen 1-3).
- B. Adam/Eve vs. the Serpent (Gen 3:1-5).
- C. Moses vs. Egyptians and the plagues (Ex 1-4; 7-11).
- D. Elijah vs. prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18).
- E. Daniel vs. Babylonian (Dan 1-4) and Persian perspectives (Dan 5:30-31; 6:1-28).
- F. Apostle Paul vs. Epicureans and Stoics (Acts 17).
- G. Apostle John vs. Gnosticism (1 John 4:1-6).

IV. What is a “CHRISTIAN (or Biblical) Worldview”?

A. Some stats:

1. “Born again” adults: _____ % **45%**
2. Adults with a “biblical worldview”: _____ % **9%**
3. Teens with a “biblical worldview”: _____ % **2%**
4. Young adults (18-23) with a “biblical worldview”: _____ % **<.5%**
5. “Churched” teens who do not remain active in church in their 20s: _____ % **61%**

B. Mark 12:30 review.

C. Df. of a “Christian worldview”: “A way of life that perceives and engages everything with a love for God and a set of basic beliefs and values that are adequately informed and influenced by God’s revelation.”

D. Summary characteristics of someone LIVING a Christian worldview:

1. _____ **LOVES** God with all of heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk 12:30).
2. Is adequately _____ **INFORMED** by God’s revelation (2 Tim 3:14-17).
3. Has a _____ **TRANSFORMED** mind (Rom 12:1-2) that is set on the _____ **SPIRIT**, not the flesh (Rom 8:5-8).
4. Is not taken _____ **CAPTIVE** by deceptive philosophies (Col 2:8).
5. Takes captive _____ **EVERY** thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Cor 10:5).
6. Consciously _____ **APPLIES** its obligations and implications to _____ **ALL** areas of life.

E. Graphic illustrations

F. Christ’s call to discipleship and living a Christian worldview.

V. Looking Ahead to Sunday Evening: “Being a Confident Christian in a Culture of Competitors”

RESOURCES

James E. White, *A Mind for God*. InterVarsity Press, 2006.

www.breakpoint.org/resources/wide-angle-curriculum. Six lessons (& DVD) by Rick Warren and Chuck Colson.

www.colsoncenter.org. The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Many resources.

www.summit.org. Summit Ministries. Worldview conferences, curriculum, and other resources.
www.thetruthproject.com. A DVD worldview curriculum by Focus on the Family.
www.worldvieweyes.org/events. Links to resources, including video lessons by Dr. Rich Knopp.