

Building a Biblical Worldview

Intro: We all have a lens by which we view the world around us. The term "worldview" literally means "a way of looking at the world." These presuppositions will guide the way that we answer the most basic questions of life. The Christian's is to be entirely committed to God and not living a life that is in conformity with the world.

Romans 12:1–2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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.*

Christians are to live entirely for God

- **Therefore** – Based on all that we have heard and know about God
- **Mercies of God** – God's saving grace
- **Present your bodies** – Actively giving all that you are to God
 - **Living Sacrifice** – OT imagery
 - **Holy and Acceptable** – Set apart to please God alone
 - **Reasonable Service** – *Spiritual Worship* (intelligent worship)

Christians are to resist the pressure of this age and do the will of God

- **Do not be conformed** - This is a command
- **World** – "this present age"
- **Conformed** – forced into a scheme
- **Transformed** – Metamorphosis/inward renewal
- **Renewing of your mind** – cultivating a mindset that reflects the will of God
- **That ye may be prove** – the pressure from the world to conform
- **Restated** - "Do not let the age in which you live force you into its scheme of thinking and behaving."
- **Therefore:** Rather than conforming to the World's mindset the Christian is to let the Will/Word of God transform his mind –
- The "worldliness" we are to break free of is the world's "Worldview."

I. What has been the historical progression of the culture's Worldview? (Observe the change)

A. The worldview of the Classic Era (Pre-1600's)

1. Core belief: God is there and knows everything.
2. Everything mankind knows is a small part of what God knows.
3. All of human knowledge depends on God revealing that knowledge to us.
4. God reveals Himself through Scripture, His Spirit, the natural world, or the church.

B. The worldview of Modernity (1600's – Mid 1900's)

1. In the 1600's, during the enlightenment, the French thinker René Descartes coined the phrase *"I think, therefore I am."*
 - a. Foundation – "I think" – rationalism
 - b. Truth – "I am" – observable existence
2. Modernism assumed that:
 - a. Truth was possible with the right foundations.
 - b. Reason was the way to truth.
 - c. A controlled method based on the right foundation could turn out consistent truths.
 - d. The culture began to believe that there was no reality outside of what could be observed.
 - e. Once a truth was proven it was ahistorical. This truth was true for all cultures over all periods of time.
 - f. The world would attack Christianity by denying that there was anything spiritual and by asking "Is it true?"

C. The worldview of Post-modernity (1945 – present)

1. Postmodern thought is a reaction to the "arrogance" and problems of modernism.
2. Some of the problems were:
 - a. The "Thinker" does not know much.
 - b. The "Thinkers" know different things.
 - c. **Truth Problem** – "Truth absolute?" You can't have ahistorical rules of interpretation because we all have different items we bring to the text.
 - d. **Meaning Problem** – "Words literal?" You don't interpret the text. The text interprets us.
 - e. **Guilt Problem** – "Guilt good?" The logical end of Sigmund Freud. "Bad for me? Says who?" What is bad you may be good for me.
 - f. The Postmodern attacks Christianity by saying, "Is it real?"

II. How does the Worldview of Postmodernism affect the culture of today?

- A. **Religious pluralism** – The belief that one's religion cannot be the sole and exclusive source of truth. The result is that two or more religions with mutually exclusive truth claims are equally valid. This posture often emphasizes religion's common aspects.
- B. **Relativism** – This belief affirms that all truth is relative. This would mean that no system of truth is more valid than another one and that there is no objective standard of truth. It would, naturally, deny that there is a God of absolute truth.
 - 1. “Sure it is true – for you.”
 - 2. “All religions are basically the same.”
 - 3. “Jesus is not the only way.”
 - 4. “You can’t tell me the Bible says.”
 - 5. “The law – whose law?”
 - 6. Morality is an individual thing. “We are both consenting adults.”
- C. **Humanism** – narcissistic preoccupation with human kind apart from God. Humanism looks at man as the center of everything. The first expression was Satan to Eve, “you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- D. **Secularism** – The minimizing of the religious.
 - 1. Religion is acceptable as long as it does not impact others.
 - 2. Evangelizing is bigoted and proud. “Are you saying that your understanding is better than mine?”
- E. **Mindlessness** – the inability or the unwillingness to look at life in a thoughtful way. Neil postman wrote a book entitled *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. The society tries to find meaning in: Inebriation, Sexuality, Power, Luxury, Spirituality, Diversion and Sports.
- F. **Biblical illiteracy**
 - 1. Many have never even held a Bible.
 - 2. Other faith communities – Islam, Hinduism
 - 3. New Age and New Spirituality.
 - a. Refusal to have anything to do with formal religion.
 - b. Terms that you are using don’t mean anything to the one that you are communicating with. (God, Spirit, Faith)

III. What is a Christian to do to build a biblical worldview?

Romans 12:1–2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.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.*

Christians are to resist the pressure of this age and do the will of God

- **Do not be conformed** - This is a command
- **World** – “this present age”
- **Conformed** – forced into a scheme
- **Transformed** – Metamorphosis/inward renewal
- **Renewing of your mind** – cultivating a mindset that reflects the will of God
- **That you may prove** – the pressure from the world to conform
- **Restated** - “Do not let the age in which you live force you into its scheme of thinking and behaving.”
- **Therefore:** Rather than conforming to the World’s mindset the Christian is to let the Will of God transform his mind –

A. Renew your Awareness of God

1. Restore your understanding of who God is and what has He done –
2. App – Build a biography of God
3. Labor to understand the attributes of God – study theology
4. Be “Word” filled – Allow the truths of the Word to change your life
5. **Luke 10:27** *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

B. Renew your Spirit of Repentance

1. Take your sin more seriously because you are taking God more seriously.
2. Connect your sin to the suffering of Christ on the Cross
3. All of the Christian life is repentance
4. **2 Cor 7:9-11** *For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

C. Renew your appreciation for the invisible

1. We are so captured by the visual and the material that we fail to see “Him who is invisible”
2. Vanity Fair – This world conspires against a relationship with God

3. Hebrews 11:27 *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*
4. 2 Corinthians 4:18 *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

D. Renew your understanding of community

1. Contrast the world's suffering of the disintegration of the family.
2. The church is to be a model of "household of God."
3. **1 Tim 3:15** *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
4. This world longs for community – the Christian has this in Christ

E. Renew your Servant-Spirit

1. Imitate Jesus –
2. Luke 22:27 *For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.*
3. This is where you can model the 2nd greatest commandment
4. This is where you can answer the question, "Is this real?"

Building a Biblical Worldview is not as difficult to understand, as it is to apply. Simply stated it is filling our mind with the Word and allowing us to think like Christ.