

A Biblical Worldview

By Marilee LaMattina

Chicago, Illinois

Our culture today is awash in a sea of “isms”: pluralism, moral relativism, modernism, post-modernism, and so on. What do they all mean? All of these terms refer to one’s basic philosophical viewpoint or worldview. Simply put, your worldview is comprised of your basic beliefs that guide your everyday life and actions. Any worldview can be analyzed by how it answers three basic questions:

1. Who am I and how did I get here?
2. What’s gone wrong with this world?
3. What can we do to fix it?

For the Christian, the answers to the above questions, in order, would be: Creation, the Fall, Salvation.

But when many other people are asked these questions they offer no real answers. Too many people have a disjointed, confused worldview. They’ve never stopped to examine *why* they believe what they believe. Their beliefs are a hodgepodge of ideas gleaned from traditions passed on by their parents, or something a science teacher taught them years ago, or yesterday’s Oprah show, or the latest advice from the most recent self-help bestseller. But the way we *act* is directly related to the way we *think*. If our minds are cloudy and fragmented with bits and pieces of contradictory thoughts, our lives will be just as confused.

All these varying worldviews come down to a basic question, “Who makes the rules?” A Biblical worldview demands that we accept the Bible as the absolute and final authority for truth and practice (what we do in response to that truth). The apostle Paul wrote:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for

reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV).

The problem however is that many people don’t accept the Bible as God’s absolute standard for how to live this life He created. Instead, they believe that what is true and right at any given time depends upon the myriad, complex circumstances at that moment. Each person decides what’s true and moral for them at the time based on their unique experiences, viewpoints, and emotions. This is called **moral relativism** and it’s probably the prevailing philosophy for most of your neighbors and co-workers. It’s certainly the dominant worldview in media and music today.

In this philosophy ethical decisions are made based on emotions and not on any sense of an absolute standard of right and wrong. That’s why you’ll often hear statements such as, “I don’t personally think abortion is right, but I’d never want to impose my values onto someone else.”

God, in contrast, clearly lays out a right path, which leads to life and a wrong path, which leads to death (Deuteronomy 30). When people reject God’s Word and make up their own rules, physical and moral chaos result. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to develop a Biblical worldview. We are to view *every* area of life through the focus of the Bible. The apostle Peter tells us that,

{God} has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. (2 Peter 1:3).

As we make the Bible the focus of all of our thinking and decisions, as we make Christ the Lord of all aspects of our life, our worldview will be unified, not fragmented. The result will be wholeness in all our thinking and living.

So how does one develop this Biblical worldview? Since God’s Word covers all that we need to know pertaining to life and

godliness, the Bible itself gives us the curriculum to follow. This curriculum can be divided into five major points:

1. Love God
2. Abide in His Word
3. Renew your mind and be transformed
4. Meditate on His Word
5. Act!

Let's look at each of these individually. First, Deuteronomy 6:4 gives us the command about loving God. It states:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Jesus, in Mark 12:30, when quoting this verse, adds the word “mind.” In short, every fiber of our being is to be dedicated to loving God.

Second, we are to abide in God's Word (John 8:31, 32). Abiding implies continually studying the Bible, and thinking and acting according to its truths (Psalm 1).

The third part of developing a biblical worldview is to have our minds renewed by the Word of God. Romans 12: 1,2 commands us to

“be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

God calls us away from conformity to the world around us and toward a new way of thinking. We are to control what we think about as the following verses from 2 Corinthians make clear.

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into

captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4,5)

When Paul wrote these words, he was surrounded by a culture every bit as secular and ungodly as today. He described the act of controlling and renewing our minds as an act of warfare, a “pulling down of strongholds.” Indeed, we *are* in a spiritual battle and we win or lose that battle in our minds. We need to train ourselves to think biblically just as vigorously as a soldier trains for a physical battle. Time spent in Bible reading and prayer sharpens our defenses against the lies of the adversary.

Fourth, we are to meditate on God's Word and let our minds dwell on the truths of the Bible (Psalm 119:15, 97). Finally, we're called to act! We are to share and defend the truth (1 Peter 3:15). Our lives are to be light and salt to a world drowning in darkness and confusion.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22)

In every action we take, every word we speak, we either advance Satan's grip or we show people a glimpse of the kingdom of God and His delivering power. Christianity cannot be reduced to one segment of our lives such as our daily Bible reading or Sunday church service. Being a Christian means to see everything through a Biblical lens. As we sharpen our focus and make every decision based on the absolute standards of the Bible, we'll realize that having a Biblical worldview is the ultimate reality.

Suggested Bibliography for further study

Arrington, Lael, Worldproofing Your Kids, Crossway Books, Wheaton IL, 1997.

Gill, David, The Opening of the Christian Mind, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1989.

Colson, Charles, How Shall We Now Live? Tyndale House, Wheaton IL, 1999.