

A Biblical Worldview – Lesson 1

Discussion

Discuss the following statements with those at your table. Evaluate them?

1. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
2. The Lord helps them that help themselves.
3. I was lucky...
4. Things just fell into place (worked out).

“Our children today face unprecedented pressure. They are exposed to sexual temptation, school violence, alcohol, illegal drugs, and a variety of influences that threaten to undo all that we teach them. And while we need to fear what our kids could be tempted to do, we need to be more concerned with what our kids are led to believe.

You see, the way our kids behave comes *from* something. Their attitudes and actions spring from their value system, and their values system is based on what they believe.” Josh McDowell in “Beyond Belief to Convictions”

Our minds require transformation from the earthly to Biblical

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom. 12:2

The transformed and renewed **mind** is the mind saturated with and controlled by the Word of God. It is the mind that spends as little time as possible even with the necessary things of earthly living and as much time as possible with the things of God. It is the mind that is set “on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2). Whether good or bad, when anything happens in our lives, our immediate, almost reflexive response should be biblical. ... Only the mind that is constantly being renewed by God’s Spirit working through God’s Word is pleasing to God. Only such a mind is able to make our lives “a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is [our] spiritual service of worship.” MacArthur’s New Testament Commentary: Romans 9-16

We requiring filling up with the knowledge of God’s will to walk in a manner worthy of Him

⁹For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. Col. 1:9-12

We must set our minds on Scripture

¹Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Col. 3:1-4

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,

² “Who is this that darkens counsel
By words without knowledge?

³ “Now gird up your loins like a man,
And I will ask you, and you instruct Me! Job 38:1-3

Worldview Defined

- Set of presuppositions held consciously or subconsciously about the make-up of the world.
- Basic assumptions about the nature of reality and of right and wrong.
- General understanding of the nature of the universe and one's place in it – either religious or secular.
- Simply the sum total of our beliefs about the world, the 'big picture' that directs our daily decisions and actions.
- The particular bias in our presuppositions that influences how you look at the world and what we see or expect to see. This bias reveals itself in answering both the major and the minor questions of life. It is a predisposition, a slant, a bias in how we see things.
- The values, ideas or the fundamental belief system that determines our attitudes, beliefs and ultimately, actions. Typically, this includes his view of issues such as the nature of God, man, the meaning of life, nature, death, and right and wrong.
- Largely determine how we consider everything that comes down the path.

- A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being. James Sire, "The Universe Next Door", page 17.

Worldview – What is real?

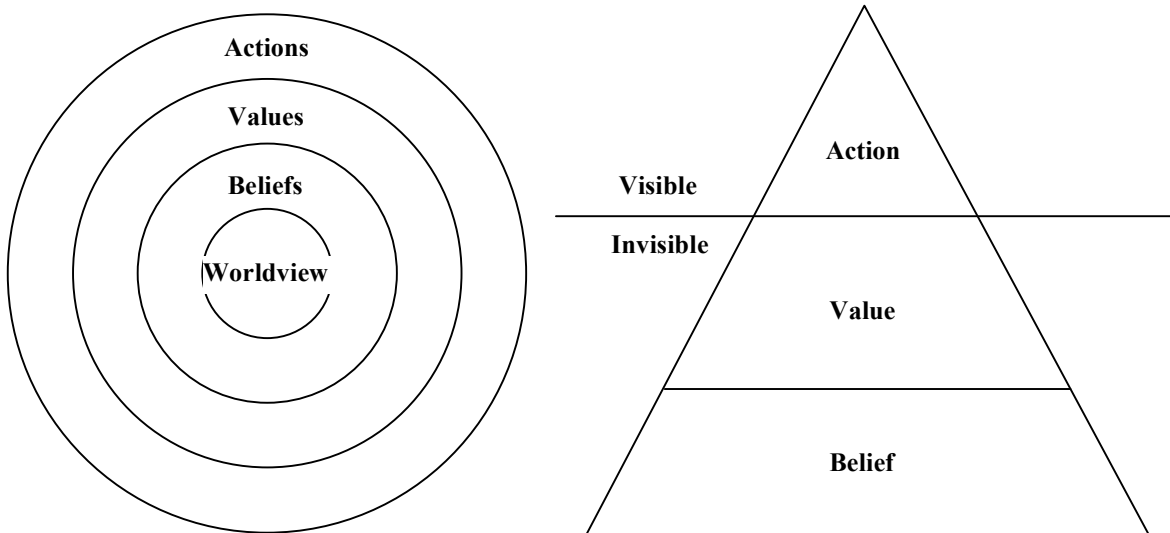
Beliefs – What is true?

Operating beliefs – those that affect values/behaviors.

Intellectual beliefs – external creeds which have little practical impact on values and behavior.

Values – What is good or best? Pre-set decisions between choices commonly faced.

Behavior – What is done?



Examples

God's sovereignty
Coincidence

What is the purpose of life?
What causes thunder?
Who sends rain?
Why did my child recover so fast from sickness?
How did I receive a gift totaling the exact dollars I needed for _____?
Why did this accident happen?
Where did we come from?
Are humans basically good or evil?
How can I know what is true?

Worldview Result of:

- Culture and tradition
- Upbringing / Family / Friends
- Heroes / Individuals we recognize as authorities
- Education
- Experience
- Information absorption – books, TV, movies, etc.
- Peer Pressure
- Revelation

Nonbiblical worldview ideas bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books, and academia.

Some Statistics (from the Barna Research Group Website)

Barna Research Group: Biblical Worldview was defined as believing that absolute moral truths exist; that such truth is defined by the Bible; and firm belief in six specific religious views: 1) Jesus Christ lived a sinless life; 2) God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today; 3) salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned; 4) Satan is real; 5) a Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people; and 6) the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

Catholics (less than one-half of 1%)
Mainline Protestant churches (2%)
Baptist churches (8%)
Pentecostal churches (10%)
Non-denominational Protestant churches (13%)

Behavior	Relative Likelihood	Biblical Worldview	Non-Biblical Worldview
Fornication	31 times less	2% OK	62% OK
Drunkenness	18 times less	2% OK	36% OK
Homosexuality	15 times less	2% OK	31% OK
Profanity	12 times less	3% OK	37% OK
Adultery	11 times less	4% OK	44% OK
Pornography	78 times less	0.5% OK	39% OK
Abortion	92 times less	0.5% OK	46% OK

The Content of a Worldview

1. Is there a God and what is He like?
2. What is the origin and nature of the universe?
3. What is the origin and nature of man?
4. What happens to a person at death?
5. How do we know what is right and wrong (the basics of ethics and morality)?
6. What is the meaning of human history?

The Content and Basics of a Biblical Worldview (more next week)

2. Is there a God and what is He like?
There is one God who is revealed in His creation and Scripture. He is (limited list) infinite, personal, omniscient, omnipotent, sovereign, and good.
2. What is the origin and nature of the universe?
God created the universe out of nothing. It is totally subject to and dependant on Him.
3. What is the origin and nature of man?
Man was created in God's image. Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. But he has fallen into sin and death.
4. What happens to a person at death?
The soul continues forever after death, either in perfect fellowship with God in heaven or in absolute separation from Him in Hell.
5. How do we know what is right and wrong (the basics of ethics and morality)?
Ethics is transcendent and is based on the nature and character of God as good (holy and loving).
6. What is the meaning of human history?
History is linear, a meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity.