

Defining a Biblical Worldview: *What is a Worldview and Why Does It Matter?*

We live in an increasingly chaotic world. It is chaotic because Truth is being suppressed by those who refuse to acknowledge and submit to the Author of Life - the all-powerful, all-knowing, loving, Creator God. All the while, the enemies of God are substituting their worldview into our culture through deception, disinformation, and outright lies to turn our minds away from the knowledge of God and His Truth.



The Bible says in Hosea 4:6: “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” But Jesus said: “You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free.”

Knowledge and Truth are entwined. Without Truth, that which is promoted as knowledge is foolish, dangerous, and deadly. This describes the government education system that has taken possession over our children seven hours a day, five days a week, for some twenty-six weeks a year over twelve of the most impressionable years of their lives. Thus, Charles Francis Potter, an outspoken Humanist proponent of government education, unabashedly once proclaimed:

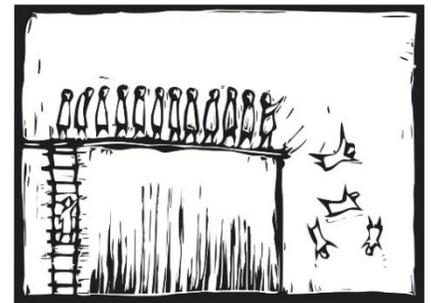
“Education is thus a most power ally of humanism, and every public school is a school of humanism. What can the theistic Sunday school, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teachings?”¹

A Lamp is not to be hidden in a basement or under a basket

Christianity is not a religion of isolation. We are called to be Salt and Light, ... to preserve and heal by bringing the light of truth to a fallen world. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** states:

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension (or idea) that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”.

In other words, we are born into a battleground. But we don't fight in a war involving weapons such as tanks and guns and knives. Our battle is over *ideas*. Because BAD ideas cause wars, arguments, poverty, slavery and death. But it is the GOOD ideas that come from the Creator of all Life Himself – the timeless truths contained in the Bible – which promise success and joy for everyone who will embrace them. These truths have a great historical track record. They can be observed and verified in reality. As such, **God's ideas need to be spotlighted and translated into the context of our everyday lives** – into today's world - so that we can recognize and tell the difference between the bad ideas and the good ones and *not get caught up following the crowd over a cliff*. **This process of comparing and contrasting biblical principles against secular ideas is necessary for the development of a truly biblical worldview.**



¹ Charles Francis Potter, *Humanism: A New Religion* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1930), 128; [Charles Francis Potter \(Rev. Dr. Charles Francis Potter\): Education is thus a most power ally of humanism, and every ... | Citatis](#)

A biblical worldview calls upon the Christian to learn how to critically think through the ideas attacking the truth of the Bible

This may simply be accomplished through a **biblical worldview study course**, several of which are available at OneVoiceAlliance.org. These studies present foundational teaching on how the word of God applies to all of life, e.g., in History, Philosophy, Theology, Economics, Science, Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, and Education. This was the key method employed by the Christian Founders that established America's early education system, which, in turn, resulted in America becoming the most literate nation the world had ever seen by 1790. Termed as a *liberal arts* education, it is distinguished from today's liberal arts model in that the Founders' worldview began with and revolved around the principles of Scripture rather than those of Humanism. However, beginning in the 1800s, American Christians gradually gave over the responsibility to educate our children to the Humanist state. Today, as reported in a 2019 study from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), over 45% of American adults are virtually functionally illiterate.² No wonder we see such chaos in the culture today – absolute truth has been cancelled from the culture!

In each of the 10-12 categories of life highlighted in most biblical worldview curricula, you will find:

1. A summary of what the God of the Bible promises as blessings to those who follow His precepts, as well as the curses that must come to those who choose to live by another worldview.
2. A summary of the various opposing worldviews that permeate our society.
3. Side-by-side comparisons of the real-life results that flow out of each worldview.

The student is challenged to learn the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and understand the main points of difference that distinguish it from opposing worldviews. He will weigh each of these worldviews using history, logic, and reality-based statistical examples of the results or consequences of following each worldview. Everyone is encouraged to not blindly trust only one viewpoint but to personally examine if the conclusions drawn from the evidence is in conformance with reality and Scripture (Acts 17:11). *A biblical worldview study is designed to develop critical thinking, training Christians to effectively discern between good and evil. (Hebrews 5:13)*

A Fundamental Principle of a Biblical Worldview

Biblical Worldview Principle #1

Laws are Necessary for life.

This is a fact that cannot be ignored without consequences. Furthermore, we submit that the physical laws *enforce* the moral laws presented in the Bible. This leads to the logical conclusion that there are *universal moral laws (of right and wrong)*, as well as universal physical laws which govern all creation; and the moral laws are *more consequential* when disregarded and disobeyed because "heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of the Lord endures forever." (Matthew 24:35) Therefore, whatever worldview one chooses to embrace must take into consideration the fixed laws that govern life (See the "Pause and Consider" sidebar below)³.

To ignore the power and consequence of the universal physical and moral laws is to live in a fantasy world outside of reality, and unpleasant consequences promise to follow. This is important today because many churches in America have long over-emphasized *grace* in the lives of Christians do to their sincere desire to evangelize the lost. And while an understanding of God's grace is key to salvation, it cannot and must not come at the expense of the necessity of obedience to the law once saved (1 John 5:3).

² <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019179/index.asp>, [OECD Skills Outlook 2013: First Results from the Survey of Adult Skills | READ online \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/) p.63-64

³ [List of Fine-Tuning Parameters | Intelligent Design](#), JAY RICHARDS, PHD

Our claim is that the Bible contains the Eternal Moral Laws that, when obeyed by the believer, lead to a *successful life* (Psalm 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8).

Defining *Worldview*

According to two prominent Christian apologists of our time, Norman Geisler and William Waikins, a worldview is “a way of viewing or interpreting all of reality. It is an interpretive framework -- or lens -- through which one makes sense of the information of life and the world.”⁴

Another similar definition comes from James A. Sire: “A set of propositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic makeup of the world.”⁵

Dr. Kenyn Cureton of Family Research Council defines worldview as “the Big Picture -- the basic set of presuppositions, beliefs, convictions through which you look at and make sense of the world. Think of it like a pair of tinted sunglasses that color how the world looks to you. For example, if you look at the value of human life through glasses tinted with the belief that we are the unique creation of a loving God, you will arrive at one view of abortion. However, if your glasses are tinted with the belief that man simply evolved as a result of chance and we’re therefore no different than the animals, you will arrive at a completely different view of abortion. Your worldview matters!”⁶

In very simple terms, a worldview is the composite of your most basic and fundamental beliefs -- those beliefs you hold to so deeply that you would bet your life on them.

Why YOUR Worldview Matters

Everyone has a worldview, though most might find it hard to define or explain how they came to believe theirs. Even a self-proclaimed atheist has a worldview. This is true because when challenged to choose between opposing ideas, everyone has to weigh the ideas in the mind and either agree with them or disagree with them. Once they decide, those ideas become a part of their worldview. You might ask, “where do these ideas come from? E. Daniel Schneider and Daniel J. Smithwick state it this way in their textbook Education from a Biblical

Worldview:

“The sources can be many and diverse. A few of the more influential sources of worldview are popular culture, the media, family and church tradition, and public education. These forces have varying degrees of impact on each individual’s formation of his worldview. Ultimately these sources contain either truth or error, depending on whether they agree with the word of God or disagree with it. In the real world, only the Bible is pure truth. All other sources are a mixture of truth and error. In modern America most of these other sources have become dominated by secular (godless) influences.”⁷

Pause and Consider

Without Laws There Would Be NO Life.

Without law there is chaos. Simply consider for a moment the results if all traffic signals stopped working at rush hour!

The Power of Laws

Science has revealed over 20 physical laws (forces) that govern the universe, and all are finely tuned to allow for life. If just one of those Laws was to go out of tune by even the tiniest fraction, all the other laws would collapse. The result would be *no life!* (see footnote #3)

⁴ Norman L. Geisler and William D. Watkins, *Worlds Apart* (Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1989) p. 11

⁵ James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*, 3rd Ed. (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1997) Quoted in *Education from a Biblical Worldview*, Nehemiah Institute, Inc., Lexington, KY. <http://NehemiahInstitute.com>

⁶ Dr. Kenyn Cureton, quote taken from the FRC (Family Research Council) Culture Impact Team Resource Manual, p.41-42

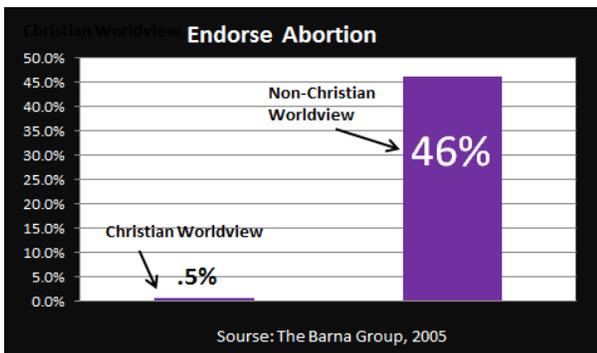
⁷ E. Daniel Schneider and Daniel J. Smithwick, *Education from a Biblical Worldview*, Nehemiah Institute, Inc., Lexington, KY. <http://NehemiahInstitute.com> p12

Unfortunately, very few people who claim to be Christians actually have a biblical worldview. In fact, according to surveys taken by a prominent research organization - the Barna Group - only 6% of Americans have a biblical worldview. George Barna personally stated in a news release announcing the results, *"In total, almost nine out of 10 U.S. adults (88%) have an impure, unrecognizable worldview that is a blending of ideas from multiple perspectives."*⁸ A simple glance at American culture today will verify that statement as we see thousands of churches sharply divided from one another in foundational ideas where all biblical churches should be united, such as marriage, sexuality, education, politics, economic systems, welfare, etc. Jesus clearly warned us about such divisions, stating, *"a house divided against itself cannot stand."* (Mark 3:25)

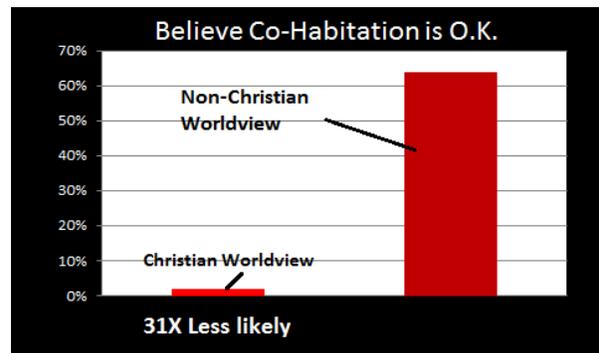
This matters because, as it says in Proverbs 23:7, *"as a man thinks in his heart so he is."* We act based on our worldview, and *our worldview is shaped by the ideas we embrace.* Thus, it is critical to choose wisely which ideas to accept and which to reject because *ideas have consequences,* either positive or negative, as illustrated in the section below.

Belief and Behavior

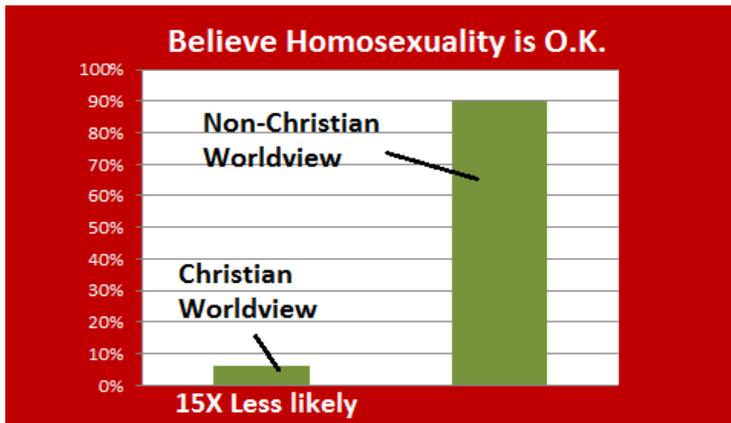
According to Barna's research, adults with a biblical worldview possessed **radically** different views on morality and demonstrated vastly different lifestyle choices, as illustrated in the following charts.⁹



Only .5% of Christians WITH a biblical Worldview endorse abortion



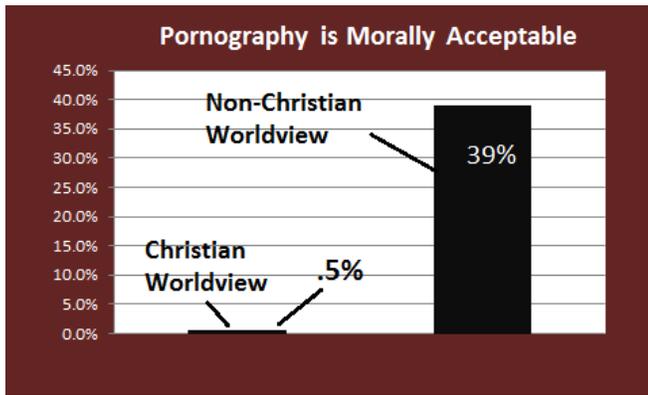
Christians WITH a biblical worldview 31X less likely to agree to cohabitate



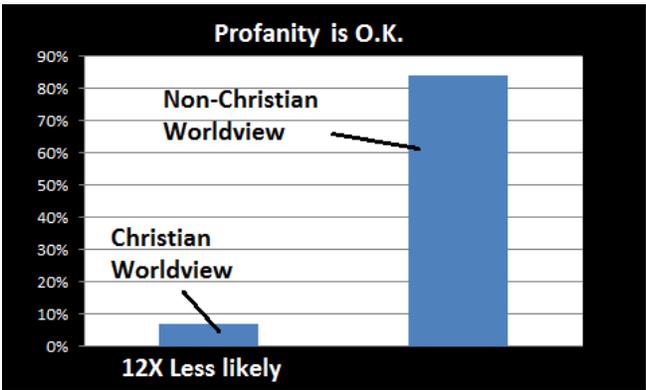
Christians WITH a biblical worldview 15X less likely to endorse

⁸ From Barna's *The American Worldview Inventory 2021*. "a representative sample of 2,000 adults by Barna and the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University". Quoted in *Study: 6% of Americans Follow a Biblical Worldview*, Decision Magazine, APRIL 15, 2021

⁹ "Changes in Worldview Among Christians over the Past 13 Years" - The Barna Group (2009) and "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life," Barna Research Online, 12-1-03 posting. See also George Barna's book, "Think Like Jesus" (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).



.5% of Christians WITH a biblical worldview endorse pornography



Christians WITH a biblical worldview are 12X less likely to endorse profanity

Each of these behaviors violates a Physical law and/or a Biblical Moral law, and when we violate these laws there will always be consequences. As one continues through a biblical worldview study, those consequences will be revealed in each behavioral area. Again, the purpose is to inform the conscience with Truth as defined by Scripture

What is True?

Biblical Worldview Principle #2
 God is Truth, therefore every word He has spoken in the Bible is true

In this post-Christian America we live today, how can we know for certain what is true and what is “disinformation”? How does one know who or what to believe? Everyone has an opinion, but who can we trust? It is obvious that without a clear standard of truth and knowledge to refer to, nothing is absolute, dependable, or trustworthy. However, our God did not create us to live in

confusion, which is why He gave us the Bible - the only supernatural, divinely inspired, inerrant, eternal Word of God - to bring us clarity to navigate our lives. This is the fundamental belief upon which America was initially built.

B.J. Wheelock addresses this subject quite extensively in his essay titled. *“What is Truth?”*¹⁰. Here is an excerpt from that essay:

David states in Psalm 119:160, *“The entirety of Your word is truth”*, and Jesus reiterates this in John 17:17 when He says, *“Your word is truth.”* Why is the entirety of Scripture true? Because fundamentally, God is truth. Truth is not something God has; it is who He is. Truth is the intrinsic nature of God’s being; it is that indispensable quality of His being, which determines His character. Truth is that property of God’s being that without which, He would not be who He is. Thus, if God did not exist, truth would not exist, for God is Truth. This the axiom – the focal point - upon which the Christian worldview rests, whereas the Humanists who control our media, our schools, and most of the government, rest their entire belief system on the axiom that absolute truth does not exist. Truth, to them, is relative to each individual.

Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 –

“All Scripture is ‘God-breathed’ and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Why is all Scripture (the Bible, the Word of God) profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness? Because all Scripture is true. And why is all Scripture true? Because all Scripture is “breathed out by God”, and when God “breathes out” He conveys the essence of His being, which is truth.

¹⁰ B.J. Wheelock, “What Is Truth” [What is Truth - and Where Can I get it? – GTI Ministries](#) © 12-7-22

It is the mind of God that communicates the essence of His being (truth) to our minds. Therefore, we can say that truth is *that which coincides with the mind of God*. When the thoughts of your mind coincide (agree, intersect) with the thoughts of God's mind, you have truth. Humanly speaking, truth is the intellectual intersection of God and man. But this raises the following question: If truth is that which coincides with God's mind, how does the mind of man come to possess truth (to intellectually intersect with God's mind)? Answer: revelation. God must reveal the thoughts of His mind to the mind of man if man is to have truth. Thus, for man, truth is all of the thoughts revealed by the mind of God to the mind of man – both in general revelation (all of creation) and special revelation (the Bible) – and their logical implications.

Notice that our definition of "truth" not only includes all of the thoughts revealed by the mind of God, but also their logical implications. For example, through both general and special revelation man knows that it is morally wrong to steal from his neighbor, which logically implies private property, as one cannot steal from a neighbor unless that neighbor owns property that rightly belongs only to him. Or again, when Scripture (special revelation) speaks of marriage and says, "A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife," certain logical inferences can be made. For instance, if marriage is the union of a man to his wife (not husband) then homosexual marriage is forbidden. Or again, if Jesus says that no one comes to the Father except through Him, then not all roads lead to heaven, only the straight and narrow road of Christianity leads to eternal life.

Conclusion

These are but a few of the many logical implications that can be found among the thoughts that have been revealed to the mind of man from the mind of God through General and Special Revelation. These "True thoughts of God" are the standard that built America and brought innumerable blessings not only to its citizenry, but to the whole world, as well.

Sadly, we have abandoned biblical standards over the last century and a half, and the world has been thrown into chaos as a result. But there is hope for Christians, their families, churches, and communities, when education from a biblical worldview is made a priority again!

The majority of this article was extracted from the booklet titled "The Power of a Biblical Worldview", the first booklet in the series: [You Are What You Think Biblical Worldview BOOKLET SERIES](#) available at [GTImin.com](#). The complete video version containing all 12 subjects in full is available at Liberty Sentinel SHOP at [Thinking Like a Christian: DVD Series on Biblical Worldview - Liberty Sentinel](#)