

**Defining and Understanding Worldview
Missions 101**

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A balanced Christian worldview is missional at its core and global in its scope. This workshop will explain how to develop a full-orbed Christian worldview and will show how this reshapes the Christian life and goals.

Introduction

Lots of talk about Christian worldview, much of it rather boring, more of a country-view, Academic, unrelated to life,

But such discussions miss the fact that Christian worldview is simply another term for exploring Christ's Lordship over all things, over all people and over every nook and crevice of our lives

Ephesians 1:19-23

21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come. 22 And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence. *NLT*, 1996.

Rev 17:14 declares that Jesus is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

If indeed Christ is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, that Lordship impacts every aspect of life and every subject of study.

A. A Christian worldview is a recognition of Christ's ultimate and total Lordship over all of living and thinking, over both ideas and actions.

developing and articulating a Christian worldview is not merely a cerebral exercise for the intelligentsia of Christendom.

B. It is a commitment to see life and learning from God's perspective

C. It is a commitment to live and think in alignment with His Word. To have the mind of Christ

contrary to the compartmentalized faith of many Christians, Christ speaks to the totality of reality

such as what we do with our money or how we make it (business and economics)

how to deal with mental and emotional problems (psychology);

what rules of right and wrong transcend culture (ethics)

how to determine good laws and develop systems of government (political science and law)

Christ is Lord of literature as much as he is of prophecy
 He is Lord of psychology and salvation
 education and church;
 biology and Biblical studies.

He is Lord--Lord of Lords--in every realm of living and learning

Abraham Kuyper, the Dutch Reformed scholar--"There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, `This is mine! This belongs to me!'"

So Christian worldview is about worshiping Christ as Lord and translating that worship into exploring how his Lordship impacts every facet of life and learning,
 Christian worldview is about living a holy life, obeying God in every detail
 Christian worldview is about submitting every plan and idea and thought and wish and ambition to Christ for His approval
 Christian worldview is about seeing the whole world as belonging to God
 Christian worldview is about a global vision to make Christ known in all the world, to all peoples, in every university, in every city, in every discipline, in every sector of society

Christian worldview is about total discipleship, wholehearted obedience, holy living, integrated thinking, passionate worship,
 Now that's something worth talking about.

But let's go back to the beginning and define our terms.

I. What is a worldview?

All of us have pondered the basic questions of life:
 Who am I?
 Why am I here?
 Where am I going?

Our answer to these questions is our worldview.

A. Everyone has a worldview

Minimally, worldview is the way we see the world, the lens, the set of assumptions through which we view everything.

A worldview is like a pair of glasses through which we see the world.

James Sire in his classic book *Naming the Elephant*, "A worldview is 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 makeup of our world." (p. 19)

B. Questions answered by a worldview

James Sire provides us with the best list of questions answered by a comprehensive worldview (*Naming the Elephant*, 134):

1. What is real? Ontology
 - a) The Bible answers this by declaring that God is the really real. He is the only being or thing that has always existed, that has never not existed. He is the First Thing from which all other things have come.

But there are other worldviews

- b) *Pantheism claims there are several gods.*
- c) *Naturalism claims that the material cosmos has existed forever and is the ultimately real.*

2. “What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us?” Where am I?
 - a) The biblical worldview declares that reality is
 - (1) Created by God
 - (2) Is both chaotic and orderly. Bible says world was created in an orderly manner by God, but human sin brought chaos and disorder.
 - b) Other worldviews such as materialism and naturalism claim that reality is autonomous, independent from the control of any being such as God.
3. “What is a human being?” Where did I come from? Who am I?
 - a) The Bible says we are created in the image of God. The details of how that happened is debated among Bible-believers, but the bottom line is that we are created by God.
 - b) Highly complex machine
 - c) Product of evolution
4. “What happens to persons at death? Eschatology

I was at my father’s side a few weeks ago—Oct 16--when he died. We knew he was going to die because of pancreatic cancer. But one minute he was laying there, living, breathing, I was talking to him. And the next minute he was gone, lifeless, dead, and in a few minutes cold. What happened to him?

a) Bible says at death, we are transformed to another life in another place, to either a most wonderful place called Heaven or for those who did not follow God, a place of eternal punishment and damnation called Hell.

b) Extinct

c) Reincarnated

5. “Why is it possible to know anything at all?” Epistemology

a) Because “made in the image of an all-knowing God”

The Biblical worldview declares that we are not alone in the universe.

God is there and He is not silent, Schaeffer,

We call this revelation--God has *revealed* who He is and what He expects of us and this revelation is recorded in the Bible.

So as Christians we receive our basic worldview not primarily from experience but through revelation from God.

b) “Consciousness and rationality developed” through evolution because it was necessary for survival

6. “How do we know what is right and wrong?” Ethics’

a) God has revealed His will, His laws, His rules to us and they are recorded in the Bible which is the inerrant inspired Word of God. The Bible declares absolutely that there are absolutes.

b) Human choice alone

c) Cultural mores

7. What is the meaning of human history?” What is the master story, the meta-narrative?

a) The Bible teaches that God gives freedom to human beings. They are free to choose to follow Him or not. But God is so great that He is able to gather all the free actions of humankind in history and use them for His purposes and His glory. The purposes of God are being fulfilled in history through the free choices of human beings. Human history has a purpose, it is not random.

b) Other worldviews claim that history has no meaning, no direction, or that it is cyclical.

So you see how the Christian worldview is centered around God as the ultimate Reality.

James Emery White *A Mind for God*, 21 “Thinking in light of God’s existence and his self-revelation is what it means to have a Christian mind.”

Jesus was the ultimate revelation of who God is. We know God is real because the Son of God became a human being. This revelation of Jesus Christ is rooted in history, real events in a space-time continuum, not vague ethereal abstract ideas.

Jesus Christ was a certain weight and height with a particular skin color. He was real, as real as you are, with fingernails and toes and hair and teeth. He ate, he drank, he walked, he slept. He spoke and taught us who God is and what He is like.

C. The Christian worldview stands in stark contrast to other worldviews that are populare today.

James White summarizes four of the most popular worldviews in his brief book, *A Mind for God*, 28-ff

1. Moral relativism

There is no absolute truth. You have your truth and I have my truth. Moral values are a matter of personal decision.

God declares that certain things are true and other things are not true. There are absolute truths which are true in every situation. There are actions which are always, always, always wrong.

2. Autonomous individualism

You are responsible to no one but yourself. Live your life for yourself. This leads to a closely related philosophy:

3. Narcissistic hedonism

Find yourself. Find your own meaning and fulfillment. Do what makes you feel good. Focus on your own health, your own wealth, your own well-being.

In contrast the Bible declares that we are to live for God and to serve others.

4. Reductive naturalism.

Nature is all that is. If you can't see it or measure it, it isn't real. This is radical empiricism which has been reduced to empirical verification.

D. Your worldview consists not only of your beliefs, but your motivations, emotions, lifestyle and priorities. Your actions show what you really believe.

Worldview is more than a set of ideas or a certain cerebral mindset which shapes the way you view the world.

James Sire, in *Naming the Elephant* says, “a worldview is not just a set of basic concepts but a fundamental orientation of the heart.” (p. 13)

Our worldview “is actualized in our behavior. We live our worldview or it isn’t our worldview.” (Sire p 133)

“We live our worldview or it isn’t our worldview.”

The Bible speaks of the heart as the center of our thought and life, so our worldview is really as much a matter of the heart as it is of the mind. In fact, the mind was included in what the Bible refers to as the “heart.”

So everyone has a worldview, a way of viewing the world.
But as followers of Jesus,

II. We are called to have a Christian worldview.

We are to view the world through the lens of the Bible, the Word of God and through our relationship with Jesus.

A Christian worldview is biblically-grounded and Christ-centered and it is total and comprehensive in its scope.

But many Christians don’t have a comprehensively Christian worldview, they wear bifocals. They have 2 ways of seeing the world.

The bifocal perspective is: “Sure, I’m a Christian. I go to church on Sunday. I tithe 10% (as long as I can afford it), I am basically an honest person. I pray before meals sometimes. But when I’m not in church, my life is basically mine to live.”

“Jesus came to save my soul. Don’t confuse my spiritual life with my academic life or my business life or my sex life. How I make my decisions, how I drive, how I eat or exercise, what I watch on TV, what movies I go to, how I spend my money, how I plan my career, how I write my papers, what I do in my relationships--those are areas that I control. My soul is saved and since I’m not a preacher or a priest or a missionary, the rest is pretty well up to me.”

If you wear these bifocals, jerk them off now, throw them on the ground and stomp on them.

Jesus came to be Lord of everything in our lives.

He expects us to view all of life from the perspective of His Word and His executive position in our lives—this is a comprehensively Christian worldview.

Luke 10:25-27 One day a lawyer asked Jesus how to have eternal life. Jesus said, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind*”; and, *Love your neighbor as yourself.*”

God doesn't dice us up and say, "Great! I saved your soul. I couldn't care less about your mind, your money, your studies, your sex life, your career plans."

He is not just wanting us to love him with our souls and forget about the rest of our lives.

He is not aiming to have your strength and your heart, but a dirty mind.

He is not aiming to have your mind and your heart, but not your energy in serving others.

He is not asking for your mind and your soul, but not your money.

He wants our **love—our total love from our total being.**

This is a full and thorough biblically-grounded, Christ-centered worldview, where our thinking and our acting and our feeling are all informed by the Bible and shaped by Jesus Christ.

C. S. Lewis in his classic chapter on "Is Christianity Hard or Easy?" in *Mere Christianity*, says, "The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.'" (p. 169)

Lewis went on to say that Jesus "never talked vague, idealistic gas. When he said, 'Be perfect,' He meant it. He meant that we must go in for the full treatment." (p. 170-171)

This "full treatment" is why defining and developing a Christian worldview is not just a cerebral process, it is at one and the same time a:

1. Spiritual process
2. An intellectual exercise, and
3. A transformed lifestyle

A Christian worldview is not just about how we think but how we live.

Christian worldview is not just about how we view the world, but how we change the world.

We are called to understand and apply Christ's Lordship in its fullest breadth and broadest scope.

So

III. How do we develop a biblically-grounded, Christ-centered, comprehensive worldview? Here are seven keys to developing a worldview that is grounded in the Bible and centered on Christ.

1. Believe. Believe that God is the Creator of all things and that Christ is sovereign over everything in the entire cosmos.

Eph 1:10—“At the right time God will bring everything under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

Eph 1:21-23 “God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence.

Eph 4:10 “...so that his rule might fill the entire universe.”

Colossians 1:15-20

1. He created all things. Not just church, spiritual things, but government, business, science,
2. He holds everything together—every molecule in the universe
3. He deserves the first place in everything--business, education, government, family, economics, medicine.
4. He will redeem everything.

“all,” “everything,” “everywhere” doesn’t leave out much of anything. There is nothing “secular” in God’s world. There are some things that are sinful, but nothing that is secular—separate from God.

As Kuyper said, “every square inch of the entire creation...”

Every detail of your life matters to Christ.
 Every academic discipline matters to Him.
 Every relationship matters to Him.
 Every thought and attitude matters to Him.
 Every ambition matters to Him.
 Everything you read, watch or listen to matters to Him.

Nothing escapes His Lordship.

Col 2:2-3 Christ, in whom are hidden **all** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Dallas Willard, Jesus really is the smartest man who ever lived. He really does know more about everything than anyone in the world.

Christ’s total Lordship means there is no dichotomy between sacred and secular.

The common dichotomy that many Christians make between sacred and secular is wrong and unbiblical because it does not have a large enough view of Christ’s Lordship
 It makes him the Lord of primarily the spiritual realm but not of everything else, it sees everything else as simply instrumental and subsidiary to the spiritual.

But since God is the source and center of everything, then we must see everything from that perspective, including our studies.

Robert Wuthnow of Princeton said, “Christianity sacralizes—makes sacred—the intellectual life. It gives the questions we struggle with in our work and in our lives a larger significance.”¹

We must live with a deep, daily, practical awareness of the Christian mindset and the enormous implications it brings.

Harry Blamires, an Oxford scholar, issued this challenge many years ago in his classic book, *The Christian Mind*:

The Christian mind's realization that all is not over when you die is something which affects not only the future but the present....On the one hand is the assumption that all is over when you die....On the other hand is the almost crushing awareness of a spiritual war tearing at the heart of the universe, pushing its ruthless way into the lives of men--stabbing at you now, now, now, in the impulses and choices of every waking moment; the belief that the thoughts and actions of every hour are molding a soul which is on its way to eternity; that we are choosing every moment of our lives in obedience or disobedience to the God who created and sustains all that is; that we are always responsible, always at war, always involved in what is spiritual and deathless; that we are committing ourselves with every breath to salvation or damnation.

Do we, as Christians, mentally inhabit the world presented to us by the faith of the Church as the real world? Do we mentally inhabit a world with a Heaven above it and a Hell beneath it; a world in which man is called to live daily, hourly, in contact with the God whom neither time nor space can limit?

Do we bring this kind of picture of the human situation to bear upon our discussion of human affairs, allowing it to determine our contribution to the secular activities in which we are involved? Do we, in this respect, think Christianly? The truth is that for the most part we don't. Our personality may bear the imprint of our attempts to live the spiritual life. Our moral conduct may be determined by the Christian code. But generally speaking, we fail completely to introduce into the mental and deliberative life of society a strain of thinking wholly colored by that tinta which bespeaks supernatural orientation. In short we ensure that there shall be no vigorous Christian mind helping to determine the character of contemporary culture.

The collision between the Christian mind and a solidly earthbound culture ought to be a violent one.²

¹ Robert Wuthnow, “Living the Question,” in *Christianity in the Twenty-First Century: Reflections on the Challenges Ahead* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 212 quoted by Marsden, 65.

Believe

2. Surrender. Surrender your life to God and become an apprentice of Jesus.

Affirm that Jesus Christ was born as a human being in order to die for your sins.

Confess your sins to him, “I have sinned. I have broken your laws. I am guilty. But you died to forgive my sins. I ask you to forgive me and I will become your follower. I want to be mentored by you.”

That confession and acceptance of Jesus is the first step in the lifelong process of transformation as we learn to think and live like Jesus.

Jesus declared, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind*”

We are to love God with our total being, including our mind.

We are to have *"the mind of Christ."* 1 Cor 2:16

2 Cor 10:5 "We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Our minds are to be transformed, Ro 12:1-2

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but *let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think*. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.” NLT

“Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” Paul

In the corporate world, here is one way we would express it.

Jesus is my Chief Information Officer, my CIO

REPEAT: Jesus is my CIO.

What does it mean for Jesus to be my CIO?

- a. Honesty in my academic work, no plagiarism, on my job or in business, no exaggeration, no bending the facts, carefulness in handling money.
- b. Purity--in our eyes and our minds—what we look at and what we think about. For us guys, we repeat with ancient Job in the Bible—“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust upon a young woman.” Job 31:1
- c. Integrity in every relationship--with friends, family, boss, professors, fellow students

Jesus is my CIO

Lord of Information: This means

Christ is Lord over every field of study, every university, every business, every profession, over the national economy, over international affairs, over field of study, every issue, every galaxy in the cosmos—He is Lord!

But I can easily forget that He is also to be Lord over every nook and crevice of my life—over everything I eat, everything I wear, everything I listen to, everything I say, everything I look at, every attitude, every longing, every dream, every ambition, every glance, every movement, every thought, every word—He is Lord!!!

Nothing in my life is too small, too insignificant to escape the scrutiny of Christ’s loving and piercing gaze.

Bonhoeffer—“When Jesus calls a man, He bids him come and die.”

Have you died to your own control of your life?

Are you becoming more like Jesus? More gracious? More kind? Easier to get along with? More focused on Jesus? More patient? More self-controlled? More holy? Purer? More generous? This is the heart of a Christian worldview.

As you surrender to Him, God will transform you by changing the way you think and live.

BELIEVE. SURRENDER.

3. Worship. Worship God and get to know Him intimately.

Some students who fancy themselves as intellectuals scorn those who engage in passionate and devout worship of God. But the hard work of developing and understanding a Christian worldview is not antithetical to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Indeed it is at the Spirit's prompting and the Word's command that we become intimately acquainted with God and let our lives and minds be transformed by Him.

Articulating a Christian worldview is not a task reserved for those who have no time for the spiritual disciplines. On the contrary, obedience, prayer, faith and a passion to know God is integral to developing a Christian worldview.

Keys to worshipping with a Christian worldview:

- Spend time every day talking to God, asking Him to transform your mind, your worldview, your life. Worship God.
- Read the Bible as a means of getting to know God—His personality, His characteristics, His thinking.
- Memorize scriptures about the Christian mind and the holy life.

- Read good books to help you learn more about God and a Christian worldview. J. I. Packer's *Knowing God* add depth to our growing knowledge of God. Dallas Willard's *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, his *Divine Conspiracy* on the Sermon on the Mount or his *Renovation of the Heart* will help us understand how God works in our lives. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
See booklist on website.

As Christian students we must be preoccupied with knowing God intimately, to maintain a deep love relationship with Him, to be focused on worship of His greatness, to be most passionate about knowing God and becoming like Jesus in our character and mind.

Focus on worshipping God. Out of the intimacy of our relationship with Him will flow more naturally, more intuitively, an understanding of the contours of a Christian worldview.

BELIEVE. SURRENDER. WORSHIP.

4. Obey. Live in obedience to God as the holy person He has called you to be.

Developing and articulating a Christian worldview is not merely a mental process. It is an earnest attempt to know how God thinks about everything and every subject insofar as we have information on His perspective.

It is a commitment to soak our lives in His inerrant Word since it is the infallible source of God's view of the world.

It is a commitment to live and think in alignment with His Word.

Thus, it is ultimately a commitment to live a life of holy obedience to God's Word as it touches every detail and subject of life and thought.

God expects all Christ's followers to have the mind of Christ—to learn what His perspective is and to live in obedience to that.

We are commanded in Scripture to be holy.

If being holy means to be in agreement with God, then the call to holiness is a call to both holy living and holy thinking.

The ultimate test of whether you have a Christian worldview is not your ability to write an essay on Christian thinking that would be approved by some great evangelical scholar, but rather, the test is whether you are obeying God in the smallest details of your life *and* that you are considering every subject and every fact from a biblical perspective.

This means that you affirm, Jesus is my CEO—my Chief Executive Officer.

He is the President of my life.

REPEAT: Jesus is my CEO.

When Jesus is our CEO, we always ask, What does the CEO think? What does the CEO want me to do?

Keys to obeying God with a Christian worldview:

- Spend time every day reading the Bible and praying, because we want to know: What are His goals for me and my work?
What does the Bible say about this decision?

I have a hard time praying. My wife says I'm ADD. Difficulty staying focused. Think of jobs I need to get done. My mind goes wild when I'm trying to pray. Very hard.

Take time to sit down, imagine Jesus sitting in a chair across from you. What would you ask the smartest, wisest, most experienced Man in the world if He were physically there with you in the room?

- Walk through your Daytimer with him.
- Review your checkbook with him.
- Visit with him about decisions you're needing to make.
- Review your relationships with Him.

You can have a free, daily conference call with your CEO.

C. S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity* talks about the ultimate result on pg. 176.

BELIEVE. SURRENDER. WORSHIP. OBEY.

5. Study. Submit every fact and concept to the Lordship of Christ, pouring it through the sieve of Scripture.

To see the relationship between the Lordship of Christ and the world is to have a Christian worldview.

This is where most books on a Christian worldview start, but we are not prepared to study until we have first believed, surrendered, worshiped, and obeyed.

One of my professors in seminary, Gary Collins, went through his doctoral program with his good friend, Larry Crabb. Every night they would sit down, sift through their notes and ask themselves, "What have we learned today that we can submit to the Lordship of Christ and what do we need to discard?"

Herb Schlossberg and Marvin Olasky, their excellent book on Christian worldview called *Turning Point* said, "Our...task is to organize our thinking in accordance with biblical categories...If we're not bringing everything into subjection to Christ, that may be because we underestimate the task for which we're appointed."³

Christianity is not just a theological or a spiritual reality; it speaks to the totality of reality.

³ Herbert Schlossberg and Marvin Olasky, *Turning Point, A Christian Worldview Declaration* (Westchester, Illinois: Crossway, 1987), 136.

Scripture is to serve in a magisterial role over all other knowledge. We must ask questions, such as,

- What does this mean in light of Scripture?
- What do I learn about this topic from Scripture?
- Is this action or theory in conflict with Scripture?
- What biblical realities or truths are affirmed or denied by this ideology or concept?

Keys to studying with a Christian worldview:

- Read your Bible specifically to learn everything you can related to your field of study. Teri, textiles inst in Moscow
- Remember that on most issues, there is more than one response which is possible from a Christian worldview. So give others room to differ with your perspective.

We are called to be honest enough with ourselves and with our unbelieving colleagues to not respond as if every opinion we have on issues is *the* standard Christian position, if it is not a one of the core beliefs of historic orthodox Christianity.

- **Be willing to wrestle with issues with honesty and humility.**

We Christians of all people must be transparently self-critical, always remembering not only our finitude but our fallenness. We are limited in our knowledge and we are fallen in our thinking.

Admit the failures of Christians and the Church throughout history to live up to the teachings of Jesus.

Admit it when you don't have a good grasp on a biblical perspective (you might want to call it a "faith-perspective") on a subject.

We cannot assume that a biblical perspective is always easy or obvious.

It is tempting as Christians to oversimplify an issue simply because the Bible principle is clear and easily understood, while the application of the principle may be difficult and complex, for example, the age-old issue of war and the newer issues of bioethics and cloning. We must remember the limitations of human knowledge, even with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to guide us.

George Marsden in *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship* puts it like this, "Christian scholarship should be marked by a healthy sense of the limits of human knowledge. One of the fundamental characteristics of a spiritual sensibility is the recognition that there are immense dimensions of reality of which we have only the dimmest awareness...Christians have often confused the belief that the Holy Spirit is working in history and in our lives with the ability to tell precisely how the Spirit works....Rather than engendering intellectual arrogance, as unfortunately it often does, Christian belief should be a source of humility." (p. 96)

- **Present a Christian worldview with the attitude of Jesus.**

All too often Christians in academe develop a fortress mentality and become defensive. While their lips speak of Christ's love, their actions speak only of His judgment. Os Guinness states it succinctly:

The only question that finally counts is, What does Jesus think? Aside from that standard, all our thinking is 'an exercise in fuzziness, in wobbly human effort, in subjectivist rationalism, in futility.' [Charles Malik in A Christian Critique of the University, p. 27]...When all is said and done, the point is to love and obey God by loving him with our minds. For the Christian mind is a combination of intellectual light and spiritual ardor that, in Dorothy L. Sayers's term, is simply the 'mind in love' with God.⁴

BELIEVE. SURRENDER. WORSHIP. OBEY. STUDY.

6. Globalize. Globalize your thinking. Develop a worldview that truly includes the world and understand how a Christian worldview impacts nations, people groups, cultures and societies.

A Christian worldview by definition declares as its central premise that Christ is the Lord of all things—every nation, people group, language, discipline, institution, culture, university—everything. A Christian worldview should represent the perspective of our global God; the Christ who died to redeem *all* the world.

Once the Lordship of Christ over all things is acknowledged, should there not be a response by us as Christians to do all in our power to both know Christ *and* to make Him known in all the earth? Should not the one lead necessarily to the other?

A Christian worldview is a *world*-view, not just a perspective on heaven or hell or spiritual issues, or saving souls, as important as that is. Too many Christians suffer from insular myopia—a provincial, near-sightedness.

A Christian worldview is necessarily, by definition, a Christ-centered, global worldview. “Worldview,” by definition, is world-encompassing. How can you truly have a *world*-view without it including the world? David Naugle, in his comprehensive volume *Worldview* quotes Dorothy Sayers, who lamented, “We have rather lost sight of the idea that Christianity is supposed to be an interpretation of the universe” (2002, p. 4).

Since we serve a global God and since the essence of our faith is a message that cries out to be proclaimed to every person in the world, any purportedly Christian worldview which is not global in scope, is theologically inadequate, philosophically shallow and sociologically myopic.

Jesus Christ not only looks at the US, Canada, Britain and cries “This belongs to me!” but also at Cuba, North Korea, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Libya, India, Tunisia, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Uruguay and Bolivia.

⁴ Guinness, 136-137.

Jesus Christ looks at not only the English, Spanish, German and French languages, and cries out “This is mine!” but also Mandarin, Farsi, Lao, Afrikaans, Hausa, Arabic and Kurdish.

Jesus Christ looks at the economics student/prof in Harbin, China, the literature student in Sao Paulo, the anthropology student in Cairo, the political science student/professor in Hanoi, the philosophy student/prof at Moscow State University, the law student/prof in Bucharest, the petroleum engineering student/prof in Libya, the medical student/professor in Havana,, and the nuclear engineering student professor in Pyongyang, North Korea—He looks at them all and declares, “These are all mine, they belong to me! I died for each of them. I died to redeem each of them--and their disciplines.”

Ask, what difference could a Christian worldview make—in my field, in the culture, in the political life, in education, among families, in every realm of living and learning--of Vietnam, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Iraq, Mexico, France, India, China, Russia, or Kazakhstan?

This is a task that requires intense intercessory prayer and critical, constant research and reflection.

Our CEO has an international business.
Jesus wants everyone to serve Him.

2 Pet 3:9 He is not willing that anyone should perish.

Get involved with your CEO’s international expansion operation.

Easy to forget how important and critical this is because most of us live in a Gospel-saturated country with 95% of all Christian resources in the world

1.6 B people in world never heard

The International Institute for Christian Studies (IICS) sends Christian professors to teach in public universities outside of NA. Many of the professors we send are the first Christians and certainly the first educated Christians the students have ever known.

We currently have 40 professors teaching in 15 nations, yet scores of universities are asking for profs. There is a great hunger in universities outside the US.

Roger Ford’s story

Our CEO wants everyone in the world to hear about him and to choose to serve him.

But 3 out of 9 have never heard

When we are loyal to our President, our CEO, when we love Him, we want to do everything we can to make sure everyone in the world knows about him.

A Christian worldview means our goal in life is to lead others to know Christ and worship Him.

How do you develop a worldview that is truly global

1. Pray globally. Pray for the nations and the lost

Pray over a globe—make it a physical act of developing a global vision.

Pray through *Operation World*.

Pray for missionaries.

2. Think globally

Learn to understand the news and current events from God's perspective,

3. Travel globally

4. Give globally

5. Work globally. Consider an overseas position after graduation.

Teaching, we have many positions open, esp with doctorate degree

Ask your CEO how he wants you to participate in his international expansion project

There is one other key to developing a Christ-centered worldview:

7. Pray your worldview.

Best way to start is simply with the Lord's Prayer—Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

God's kingdom is where God's will is done (Dallas Willard)

God's will is not being done in most situations in most places by most people today.

Unison: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in [city]

My dorm or apt., My university, my field of study,

our church, our state, our nation, our world

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in the media

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done—at every level of government, in the arts, in business, in the sciences

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done—in making sure that the 1.6 B unreached people in the world can hear about Jesus,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done—fighting racism and injustice, chauvinism towards women, abuse of the environment, persecution of believers, hunger, abortion, corruption in business, sex industry, slavery,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done—in Washington, D.C., New York, LA, San Francisco, in Baghdad, Jerusalem, Beirut, in Paris, London, Moscow, Beijing, Teheran, Mumbai, Abuja, Cairo, Istanbul, Khartoum, Sao Paulo and Quito

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

**So after we have BELIEVED. SURRENDERED. WORSHIPED. OBEYED.
STUDIED. GLOBALIZED.
WE PRAY.**

Let God transform you by changing the way you think. Ro 12:2

CONCLUSION:

Everyone has a worldview. It is our way of seeing the world and ourselves.

It answers the basic questions of life:

Who am I?

What is real?

What can I know?

Why am I here?

Where am I going?

What is right and wrong?

What is the meaning of life?

But it is more than answers to basic questions.

Your worldview consists not only of your beliefs, but your motivations, emotions, lifestyle, priorities.

“We live our worldview or it isn’t our worldview.” Sire

The Christian worldview stands in stark contrast to popular worldviews today.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to have a Christian worldview.

A Christian worldview is biblically-grounded, Christ-centered and comprehensive.

Luke 10:27 Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”

Jesus is my CEO,

Jesus is my CIO

REPEAT THESE

How do you develop a biblically-grounded, Christ-centered comprehensive worldview?

BELIEVE. SURRENDER. WORSHIP. OBEY. STUDY. GLOBALIZE. PRAY.

Some signs that a person has a biblically-grounded Christ-centered worldview

1. Don't view certain occupations or activities as more spiritual than others.
2. Don't compartmentalize their spiritual life from the rest of their lives.
3. Pray and ask God for direction in small matters, practical issues as well as in large decisions.
4. Live their daily lives with constant reference to the Bible, always seeking to live in obedience to God and His Word.
5. Committed to helping reach those who don't know Christ, especially the 1.6 B who are unreached
6. View all their money and their possessions as God's
7. Treat others as though they are created by God, courteous and respectful to professors, fellow students, the dept. secretary, mechanic at the station, other drivers on the road,
8. Pure and honest in their relationships and in what they read and watch.
9. Career plans are made within the context of what would bring honor to God and they are willing to serve anywhere in the world.
10. Commitment to social justice and righteousness in every sector of society
11. Seeking ways to use their educational credentials for the expansion of God's Kingdom
12. Avoid reading or watching anything which causes them to think impure, lustful or destructive thoughts.
13. Seek to truly love and respect each person regardless of their race, economic status, sex or political position.

So Christian worldview is about worshiping Christ as Lord and translating that worship into exploring how his Lordship impacts every facet of life and learning,

Christian worldview is about living a holy life, obeying God in every detail

Christian worldview is about submitting every plan and idea and thought and wish and ambition to Christ for His approval

Christian worldview is about seeing the whole world as belonging to God

Christian worldview is about a global vision to make Christ known in all the world, to all peoples, in every university, in every city, in every discipline, in every sector of society

Christian worldview is about total discipleship, wholehearted obedience, holy living, integrated thinking, passionate worship,

Discussion questions:

Identify ways in which the scholarship in your major does not reflect a biblically-grounded Christ-centered worldview.

Identify ways in which your actions have not reflected a biblically-grounded Christ-centered worldview.

Identify ways in which your thinking has not reflected a biblically-grounded Christ-centered worldview.

What are steps you can take in your life to develop a more Christ-centered biblically-grounded worldview?

How might a Christian worldview make a difference...

with your life-goals and career plans?

with your priorities?

in your family and relationships?

on your campus?

for the Kingdom?

Review Ephesians and identify answers you find to the basic worldview questions.

What is real?

What is the nature of the world around us?

What is a human being?

What happens to persons at death?

Why is it possible to know anything at all?

How do we know what is right and wrong?

What is the meaning of human history? Of life?