

Session #14: Developing a Biblical Worldview

Watch!

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/fmgFMddobGw>

Study!

Scriptural Focus: Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
(Romans 12:2)

Structural Framework: Developing a biblical worldview

As Christians, God must be at the centre of our lives. He must be in the equation of every single decision we make. To do this, we must first develop a biblical worldview.

A worldview is the lens that provides us with an explanation and interpretation of the world. It is formed through our beliefs, values and memories. It is the way we interpret life and the events we experience, and it becomes the conceptual framework through which we view our lives and the world. This in turn dictates the decisions we make.

Even though we don't pay attention to it, we all have a worldview and live it out daily. If we are Christians, our worldview must be formed and dictated by Scripture. The Word of God must shape and direct our lives; there is no other worldview that Christians must hold.

Two principles we must understand:

1. Where you live will determine what you see.
2. What you see will determine how you live.

Do you consider yourself a citizen of this world or a citizen of the kingdom of God? Where you see yourself determines the way you view life, and how you view life will determine what you do.

"A worldview is one's collection of presuppositions, convictions, and values from which a person tries to understand and make sense of the world and life."

- Rev. Paul Jeyachandran

At the heart of the Christian worldview:

1. We recognise that God is the unique source of all truth.

2. God's Truth is revealed solely in His Scriptures.
3. We evaluate our life from God's perspective.
4. We order our life according to God's will.

In essence, a biblical worldview puts God in the equation of our life.

A. Your Theology of the WORLD (Community)

We must realise we are **in** the world but not **of** the world!

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
(1 John 2:15-17)

Loving the world leads to:

1. Lust of the eyes—covetousness.
2. Lust of the flesh—sensuality.
3. Pride of life—acquisitions and accomplishments.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

B. Your Theology of WORK (Calling)

Don't confuse your **name** card with your **calling** card! It's not how you do the work, but what focus you have when doing the work. Our focus must be the unseen, eternal Kingdom of God.

- If our focus is on **ETERNAL** things, our secular work will become spiritual.
- If our focus is on **TEMPORAL** things, even our spiritual work will become secular.

As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

We must remember that work is not about the **fruits** of our labour but about the **focus** of our labour. Our focus must be on the Kingdom of God. Our calling is meaningless when it is divorced from the Caller, and our work is meaningless if it is divorced from our witness.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

C. Your Theology of WEALTH (Consumption)

Life on earth is neither a party nor a curse; it is a **stewardship**. There are two extreme views of wealth that exist today:

1. Poverty theology—Being poor is holy and virtuous.
2. Prosperity theology—Being rich means you are blessed and favoured.

As believers, we need to have **stewardship theology**. We believe that God is the owner of everything, and we are custodians of everything He gives us.

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce. (Proverbs 3:9)

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Luke 12:32-34)

D. Your Theology of WELFARE (Compassion)

The bible says we are to take care of the poor. A **clenched** hand is a sign of a **closed** heart! Open your heart to the needs of the people around you.

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Four Arenas through which You Serve God's Purposes

1. Marriage (Family)
2. Marketplace (Work)
3. Ministry (Church)
4. Missions (World)

"Compassion supersedes commitment, yet often it is commitment that precedes compassion!"

- Rev. Paul Jeyachandran

E. Your Theology of WHAT'S TO COME (Consummation)

The second coming of Jesus Christ is the hope of all believers. There are some prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus has yet to fulfil. At the return of Christ, these remaining prophecies will be fulfilled.

We must remember that Christ is returning. There are specific chapters in Scripture that talk about Christ's return in the last days. These Apocalyptic chapters include Mark 13, Luke 21, Matthew 24 and Matthew 25.

See, I have told you beforehand. (Matthew 24:25)

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:42)

In Matthew 25, Jesus gives us three parables for us to consider, each with a unique application:

1. Parable of the Ten Virgins—Be Alert.
2. Parable of the Talents—Be Accountable.
3. Parable of the Sheep & Goats— Be Active.

Jesus calls His Church to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Therefore, His return must dictate how we think about the times we are living in, and ultimately how we live.

Conclusion: A biblical worldview is all about putting God in the equation of our life.

Reflect!

What are some key insights that I can take away from today's session?

Examine your current worldview regarding the areas of life, career, finances and marriage. In what ways do you feel that God is asking you to change the way you see these things?

Discuss!

Q1: Read Romans 12:1–2. What does it mean to present our bodies as living sacrifices? How is this worshipping God? Are we worshipping God this way in our life?

Q2: What does it mean to be conformed to this world? Why should we not be like the world? Name a few key issues where the world's way of doing things is very different from God's way.

Q3: Are you tempted to be like those around you in the world, especially so you can fit in or be accepted? Why? Name one way the world tries to press you into its mould.

Q4: What solution is there so we won't be conformed to the world? Why, and how, does our mind need to be "renewed" in order to worship God and know His will?

Q5: What does it mean for a person to have a secular focus whilst doing spiritual work? Can a person do spiritual work in a secular job? Explain these concepts using examples.

Q6: Summarise the differences between poverty theology, prosperity theology and stewardship theology.

Q7: Review the section on the theology of welfare. How can you grow in your service to others?

Q8: How will you apply these lessons to yourself? What views or actions are you going to make in your own life as a result of studying these verses?

Between Sessions

Challenge!

Over the next week, find some time to sit down with a mentor or accountability partner. Come prepared with your journal and your key learnings from this lesson. Share with them some ways you plan to be "renewed" and listen to any insights they may have. If you don't have a mentor or accountability partner, now is a great time to find one. Invite people who you trust and open up your life to them.

Memorise!

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(Romans 12:2)