

Biblical Worldview in Everyday Life

Presented by Holly Varnum, EdD

What Is a Worldview?

Simply put, a worldview is your view or _____ of the world around you. How you look at the world makes all the difference in the world regarding your choices.

But what does that mean? By definition, a worldview is “a set of basic beliefs, assumptions, and values that come from your understanding of your purpose in the world.” In other words, how you look at the world is determined by your belief system.

How is a person’s worldview formed?

- Culture—holidays, church attendance, and moral values.
- Education—We are the product of what we read, listen to, watch, and are taught.
- Religious beliefs
- Emotions—how you feel can be so strong that it overpowers logic and truth.
- The Bible—using God’s Word as your standard for what truth is.

What are three common worldviews today?

Though there are multiple worldviews in our world, we are going to look at the three that are most likely to impact you.

1. A _____ worldview (also known as _____) teaches that beliefs are a matter of personal preference, not absolute truth. Truth in a secular worldview comes mostly from human reasoning and preference.
2. _____ therapeutic _____ (MTD) is a worldview that has become a force not only in the secular arena but also in the church. It is based on the following premises:
 - God created everything but then pretty much leaves us alone unless we need help from Him.
 - We should all just be kind to others.
 - If you are a good person, you will go to Heaven.
 - Our primary goal in life should be to find happiness and feel good about ourselves.
3. A _____ worldview (or a Christian worldview) is a worldview based on God’s Word—unchanging and eternal. This worldview acknowledges God as the Creator of the universe, the author and standard for truth. He is the all-knowing, all-powerful, and unchanging provider for mankind.

Psalm 119:160

Summary: _____

In John 17:17, Jesus prays to the Father that believers will be set apart to give out the truth from His holy Word: “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

A biblical worldview:

- Holds that God’s Word is _____ (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17) and inspired—“breathed out”—by God Himself through the person of the Holy Spirit, who guided and directed men to write down and preserve His holy Scriptures. When we seek the truth, God’s Word should be the first place we go to for advice.
- Shows us the world as our Creator intended. By using our biblical glasses, our distorted vision, clouded by sin, can be corrected to see the world through the context of God’s redemption.

What difference does your worldview make?

With a biblical worldview, you filter everything through the lens of _____.
A believer in Christ with a biblical worldview will respond with trust in the wisdom, provision, and love of God. Having a biblical worldview changes the way you _____
to what happens to you and those around you, such as:

- a natural disaster
- a wrong order at a restaurant
- a financial crisis
- a national crisis (e.g., war, COVID, and economic challenges)

In what other situations would a biblical worldview make a difference in your response.

How you respond to _____

How you respond to _____

How you respond to _____

How you respond to _____

A biblical worldview also directs your decisions regarding

- how you spend your time and money
- how you respond to authority
- who you date or marry
- how you raise your children
- what kind of job you take

- how you respond to others.

It permeates every aspect of your life.

According to Barna research, only _____% of those who consider themselves believers and attend church actually have a Christian worldview.

Most Americans have been influenced by postmodernism—the false philosophy that teaches there is no objective right or wrong. It pervades education, entertainment, and social media.

Examples:

How Do I Build a Biblical Worldview?

Matthew 22: 37–38

Luke 11:28

Romans 12:1–2

Joshua 1:8

2 Corinthians 10:4–5

Colossians 2:6–8

Believers in Christ and atheists all have the same _____—the same earth, the same fossils, the same animals, the same landforms, the same galaxies, etc. What we disagree about is the _____ of the evidence.

A biblical worldview drives how we interpret the evidence to explain how the world came to be, why we are here on this earth, and what happens after we die. If we _____ with God’s Word, our interpretation will confirm that what we see in the world is consistent with what we read in the _____.

Christian Worldview Assumptions

1. God is who He _____ to be.
2. He did what He said He did the _____ that He said that He did it.

Start with these two assumptions and go into the world viewing it with these “lenses.” Being a believer in today’s culture is not an easy task. However, when we are made aware of the threats to our faith, we can be better prepared to counter them.

Three Threats to a Biblical Worldview

1. Not seeing _____ of life through God’s Word—picking and choosing which specific areas we choose to live biblically.
2. Not believing our biblical worldview is based on absolute, right _____. If we don’t live by John 17:17, we will be easily swayed by the winds of postmodernism. Be in the world but not of the world.
3. Viewing other worldviews as the _____. Rather, we should view them as opportunities to shed the light of God’s truth. Follow Paul’s example from Acts 17 on Mars Hill.

Don't Worry; Be Happy!

by Holly Varnum

“Don’t worry; be happy” should be everyone’s mantra, right? I mean, isn’t a positive outlook on life something admirable? Not necessarily. When we delve into this idea a little deeper, we see deception that’s been permeating our society (and our churches!) for close to two decades now, and it’s not even close to the truth of God’s Word.

Moralistic Therapeutic What???

I recently read an article¹ explaining what was identified in the early 2000’s as Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) also known as, more *informally*—“believe-in-yourself-ism.” One of the repercussions of this new understanding is that I’ve become a victim of the *Baader-Meinhof phenomenon*—the experience where once something is brought to your attention, you see and notice it *everywhere* you go. Once you read the list of the tenets of MTD below, you’ll know what I mean.

- Of course, I believe that God created the world. It’s too complicated to just have materialized on its own.
- God wants me to be kind to others.
- God pretty much leaves me alone, but He’s there if I need help.
- As long as you are a good person, you will go to heaven.
- God wants me to be happy and feel good about myself, right?

Then, I read another article where the author summed up the MTD philosophy quite well: “Everyone can conjure up some happiness and some niceness, so we sort of shelve God and decide we don’t really need Him. We just need to believe in ourselves, to invent who we are and what we want to do, and we need to just go for it.”²

The more I looked into this philosophy, the more it reminded me of a scene from a Percy Jackson movie where Percy and his friends—looking for clues in their quest—end up at the Lotus Casino. When they enter the building, they are surrounded by music, dancing, lights, and laughter, and are immediately offered a lotus flower confection to eat. After eating just one, they begin to lose all sense of time and urgency, and completely get caught up in the enjoyment around them while continuing to consume more lotus flower treats. After days had passed virtually unnoticed, Percy heard his father’s voice in his head whispering: “Don’t eat the flower, Percy. It dulls the senses—keeps you prisoner here.”

The MTD philosophy feels good, but it dulls the senses and keeps you prisoner to a false premise. This type of thinking which “seems right to (people)” leads to death (Proverbs 14:12).

Eternity without God

I have actually heard people say they don’t need or want God in their life, and they look forward to being in hell, partying it up with all their friends, etc., etc. What they are not understanding is that eternal death (hell) means complete separation from God *and* anything that shows the character of God. Let me be clear: *No one on Earth has ever experienced life without God.*

Galatians 5:22,23—known as the “fruit of the Spirit” verses to believers—include attributes of God Himself that He desires to see grow in believers, **not** to control us, but to give us the most fulfilling life possible. These qualities also make others want to be around us in order to enrich their own lives.

Using these qualities, allow me to elaborate about what life or death would be like completely devoid of God:

God is **LOVE**. *Without* Him there is **NO LOVE**, care, light, or warmth.

God is **JOY**. *Without* Him, joy, **HAPPINESS**, elation—whatever you want to call it—**IS NOT POSSIBLE**.

God is **PEACE**. *Without* Him, **LIFE IS CHAOS**, confusion, cacophony.

God is **PATIENCE**. *Without* Him, **TOLERANCE IS NON-EXISTENT**.

God is **GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, KINDNESS**. *Without* Him, **NOTHING** that is considered thoughtful, benevolent, **GOOD**, or selfless would exist.

God is **FAITHFUL(NESS)**. *Without* Him, fidelity, **LOYALTY**, brotherhood, and so on, are **OUT THE WINDOW**.

God is **SELF-CONTROL**. *Without* Him, the rule would be violence, chaos, lawlessness — **COMPLETE DISORDER**.

That is what hell is—a dark, chaotic, noise-filled (weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth), panic-inducing environment with **NOTHING** good, kind, or comforting about it. There will be *no* friends, *no* pleasure, *no* parties, *no* rest.

MTD is a trap—an effective one at that—and the devil himself is at the root of it. Put another way, “Satan is most effective in the church when he comes not as an open enemy, but as a false friend; not when he persecutes the church, but when he joins it...”³

God’s Joy—Not the World’s “Happiness”

“You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11). God created a perfect, glorious dwelling place beyond our imagination—**HEAVEN**—a place that includes *only* what is in line with His character. To keep it that way, His entrance requirement is simple ... sinless perfection. Wait a minute! That would mean **NO ONE QUALIFIES**, right? But remember, **God is love**. He loved you and me so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, to solve the sin problem that would separate us from Him forever. It’s His gift, but you have to believe it and receive it (John 3:16). If you don’t, *nothing* you can conjure up can change the reality of what will happen.

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Moralistic-Therapeutic-Deism.html>

² Jen Oshman, “Why Moralistic Therapeutic Deism Is a Dead End,” *Crossway*, July 10, 2020. See <https://www.crossway.org/articles/why-moralistic-therapeutic-deism-is-a-dead-end/>

³ John MacArthur, *2 Corinthians* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2003), 371.