

The New Testament Church
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW TEACHINGS

01 - Essentials of a Biblical Worldview

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I Introduction – PowerPoint slides 1-4

- A. What is a Biblical Worldview? (Colossians 2:1-8)
 - 1. *Worldview is the study and understanding of our beliefs about life and the universe and how we acquire them* – page 2 of *Worldview*, published by Go Strategic, 2023
 - 2. A Biblical worldview means we want to take our beliefs from the Bible.
 - 3. Worldview also *trains us to apply what we believe so we live more consistently.*
- B. We face a dichotomy in the Church and World – *not all Christians have a Biblical worldview.*
 - 1. What we profess is not what we practically live (believe) – recent disturbing trends
 - 2. Though Churches may grow, they might not positively influence the culture around them
- C. God has a built-in barometer to measure effectiveness (Matthew 5:9-13; 1st John 4:20)
 - 1. The world and culture surrounding the Church is often a barometer of our effectiveness
 - 2. God judges or blesses a nation based on the condition of His people (Ps. 33:12)
 - 3. If the Church is effective, it results in persecution and/or transformation of the culture
 - 4. If the Church is ineffective, God often chooses judgment to wake up His Bride
- D. In every age, it appears that three key questions continue to highlight people’s minds
 - 1. What is the nature of God? (Is He one, many, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent)
 - 2. What is the nature of man? (is he born good, sinful, or neutral)
 - 3. What is the nature of truth? (is it absolute, bendable, knowable)

II Presuppositions and Premises – PowerPoint slides 5-8

- A. Presuppositions - ***The spiritual agendas (heart choices), conscious or unconscious, by which man applies assumptions about himself and his environment. (Applied Christianity)***
 - 1. Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:17-ff - *The mind (soul) justifies what the heart (spirit) has chosen.*
 - 2. Hebrews 4:12 – God’s Word distinguishes between intent (heart motive) and thoughts
 - a. The Word of God is living and powerful, able to distinguish what we cannot on our own
 - b. Soul (joins and thoughts) from Spirit (marrow and intents)
 - c. Premises and presuppositions are thus not just ideas, but spiritual heart motives
 - 3. Matthew 6:21 – where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Mt. 12:35-36)
- B. Evidence (or results) – ***The results we can experience in our lives that give evidence that we are dwelling in the Lord and seeing His fruit in our lives.***
 - 1. We are not saved by our works (fruit or evidence), but our works follow our faith
 - 2. We expect results, for they measure our effectiveness, but we are not outcome-based
 - 3. When outcomes are the foundation, we build on performance and manipulation (control)
- C. Biblical paradigms of presuppositions
 - 1. Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God (presupposition) created (evidence)
 - 2. Genesis 2:7 – God breathed into his nostrils (premise), man became a living soul (evidence)
 - 3. Hebrews 11:6 – Man must first believe that God is (presupposition), and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (evidence)
 - 4. The Battle of the Ages *is a battle of understanding cause and effect* (not either-or, both-and)
 - a. Presuppositions (cause) and Evidence (effect)
 - b. Internal and External
 - c. Invisible and Visible

- d. Spiritual and Material
- 3. The Heart vs. the Head
- c. Truth vs. Experience
- d. Faith vs. Works

III Christianity should expose false worldviews – a matter of presuppositions – PP Slides 9-13

A. Colossians 2:6-8 – misplaced presuppositions (heart in the wrong place)...

1. As you have received, so walk...
2. The rudiments of the world are external, experience-centered, performance dominated, etc.

B. 1st Corinthians 1:18-24

1. Power vs. Wisdom – the Jews required a sign, the Greeks sought after wisdom
 - a. Jews sought power without wisdom (zeal without knowledge)
 - b. Greeks sought wisdom without power (heart)
2. Christ and the cross puts it in order – power of God (heart) leads to wisdom (head)
 - a. Must be rooted in the Word in order to put things into priorities
 - b. Must be centered in Christ who holds everything together (Colossians 1:16-18)

C. Biblical Presuppositions and Philosophy

1. **Ontology.** What is the nature of reality or existence – what is the origin of life?
2. **Epistemology.** What is the nature of truth? How do we know and know that we know?
3. **Axiology.** Who determines beauty and value? By what criteria do we decide?
4. **Teleology.** Where is history going? Is history linear or cyclical?

Note: Etymology from the Greek – *teleos*, meaning “end” and “logia” (word).

D. Applications of Presuppositional thinking

1. Statistics – premises determine how statistics are organized (revealed in Pandemic)
2. Multi-culturalism – what determines the greatest value of a culture?
3. Debate and discussion - how ideas are presented and discussed (doesn't take place)

Note: Discuss (from Webster's 1828) - *v.t. [L.] Literally, to drive; to beat or to shake in pieces; to separate by beating or shaking....*

2. *To debate; to agitate by argument; to clear of objections and difficulties, with a view to find or illustrate truth; to sift; to examine by disputation; to ventilate; to reason on, for the purpose of separating truth from falsehood.*

4. Which premise provides “shade” – or loving grace – to an opposing view? (Mt. 13:31-32)
5. Most presuppositions are hidden beneath the surface – often deliberately disguised
6. It takes practice to uncover the premises, analyze them, and build a Biblical argument
 - a. Learn to listen and discern premises and presuppositions (deductive)
 - b. Discuss ideas from the premise level, determining if they are Biblical (inductive)
 - c. Transplant the premise of opposing ideologies in new (and absurd) soils (inductive)
 - d. Demonstrate the result of the premise in a different area (deductive)

E. Conclusion:

1. The Believer should “tear down strongholds” – 2nd Corinthians 10:3-5
2. The Believer should be able to “give an answer” to those who ask – 1st Peter 3:15
3. We should be a prophetic voice in love – a sweet smelling savor – 2nd Corinthians 2:15

See also the PowerPoint Slides that go along with this session by Paul Jehle – tntchurch.net

Recommended Reading: *Worldview*, published by GoStrategic, 2023.