

Essentials of a Biblical Worldview



Applied Christianity



Cultural Transformation

*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy
and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after
the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” -*

Colossians 2:8

What is a Biblical Worldview?

- *Worldview is the study and understanding of our beliefs about life and the universe and how we acquire them – page 2 of *Worldview**
- Everyone has a worldview (the one they live)
- A Biblical worldview is derived from the Bible
- A Biblical worldview is the process of training to apply our beliefs so that we live them more consistently – a better witness
- An analysis of Colossians 2:8 reveals that we can be held as a prisoner of war in our minds

Our Challenge... *to walk the talk*

- A Dichotomy with the Church and World
 - Church is often isolated from the world or integrated with it but not “in the world not of it”
 - A heart after God but a mind rooted in the premises of the world demands a renewal
- God’s barometer for Church effectiveness
 - If effective, the church either transforms the culture or is martyred by it (Mt. 5:12, 13-16)
 - If ineffective, the church is “trodden under foot” or over-regulated and seen as irrelevant

God judges or blesses a nation based on the condition of His people (Psalm 33:12)

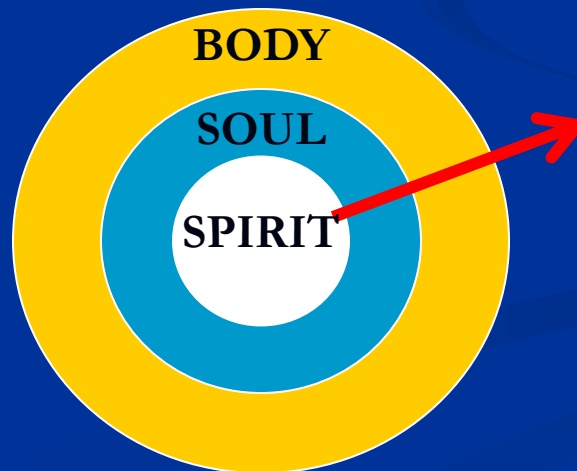
Three Pivotal Questions to Begin

- *What is the nature of God?*
 - One, many, or both?
 - Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent?
- *What is the nature of Mankind?*
 - Born good, sinful, or neutral?
 - How do we know ourselves?
- *What is the nature of Truth?*
 - Is it absolute, knowable, bendable?
 - How do we know what is true?

What are Presuppositions?

- *The spiritual agendas (heart choices), conscious or unconscious, by which we order assumptions about ourselves and environment*
 - The mind (soul) justifies what the heart (spirit) has chosen (the intent or premise of one's thinking)
 - *Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*

God's Word separates spirit (intent; premises) from soul (thoughts and patterns); which determine the quality of behavior or conduct (Hebrews 4:12)

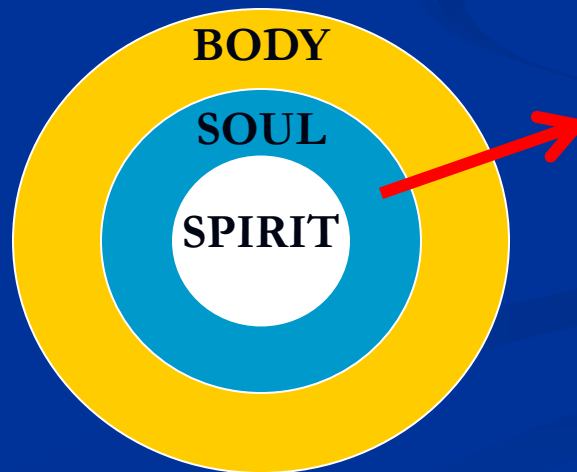


God designed us to be ruled from the inside-out (Colossians 1:27)

What are Evidences?

- *The results we want to experience in our lives that give evidence that we are content and overcoming our environment (circumstances)*
 - Works (behavior) *follow* faith (premises) (Ja. 2:18)
 - We *expect* results, but we are not outcome-based
 - Results give *evidence* of presuppositions planted

God's Word separates self-righteous results (soul driven) from righteous results (spirit driven) for humility or pride are seen in conduct / behavior



God allows us to discern the seed by the fruit (Matthew 12:33)

A Biblical Paradigm *applied...*

- A Paradigm is a way of thinking, an *ordering of cause and effect based on spiritual premises*
 - *In the beginning God (premise) created (evidence)*
 - *God breathed (premise) man lived (evidence) Ge. 2:7*
 - *Man must believe God exists (truth) before He rewards his seeking (experience) – Heb. 11:6*
- *What you sow, you reap (Gal. 6:7) – the battle is the isolation or reversal of cause and effect*
- *Seek first the Kingdom (Mt. 6:33) – *connecting cause and effect according to God's priorities**

Understanding Cause and Effect

CAUSE

- Presupposition
 - Internal
 - Invisible
 - Spiritual
 - Heart
 - Truth
 - Faith

EFFECT

- Evidence
 - External
 - Visible
 - Material
 - Head
 - Experience
 - Works

Christianity vs. Humanism;

A Matter of Presuppositions

- **Colossians 2:6-7 – *rudiments of Christ***
 - *As you have received (premise), walk (evidence)*
 - *Rooted and built up in him, established (premise)*
 - Rudiments of Christ are internal, invisible, truth (absolute based), positional...

- **Colossians 2:8 – *rudiments of the world***
 - *Worldly rudiments take you captive (prisoner)*
 - God corrects us by the consequences of premises
 - Worldly rudiments are external, visible, experience centered, performance based...

Presuppositional Philosophy

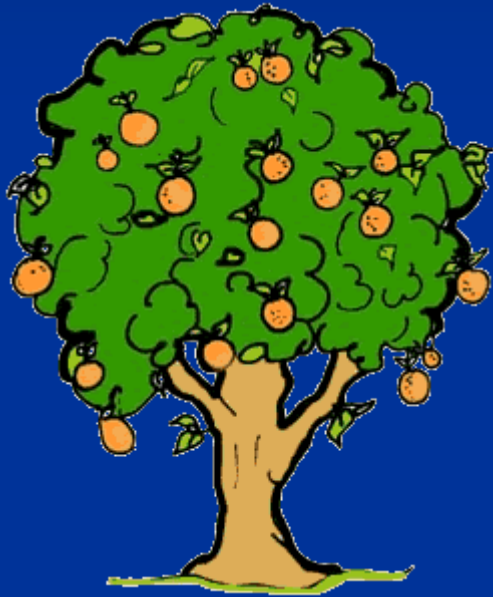
- Ontology – *nature of reality and existence*
- Epistemology – *nature of truth and knowledge*
- Axiology – *determination of beauty and value*
- Teleology – *history – linear or cyclical?*
- Applications (examples):
 - Statistics – interpretation by presuppositions...
 - Multi-culturalism – value determined by premise..
 - Poverty – productive or dependent? (meet needs)

It is important to recognize that philosophies built on non-biblical premises do not produce good fruit

Which Premise provides Shade?

Fruit from
the Church

*...so that the birds of the air come
and lodge in the branches”*



*“which indeed, is the least of all
seeds, but when it is grown, it is
the greatest among herbs, and
becomes a tree...”*

Seed of
Christ
root

*“The kingdom of heaven is like to a
grain of mustard seed... sowed in a field”*

Matthew 13:31-32

Debate and Discussion

- Discuss – *“literally, to drive, to beat or shake in pieces; to separate by beating and shaking...”*
- 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”*
- 2nd Corinthians 10:3-5 – tearing down strongholds
 - Discern premises, analyze and transplant them
 - Expose fallacious thinking, build Biblical arguments, clothe them in relevant terminology

The Art of Loving Discernment

- Most premises are hidden beneath the surface
 - Learn to listen and discern premises (deductive)
 - Discuss ideas at the premise level (inductive)
 - Transplant premise in opposing idea (inductive)
 - Demonstrate the failing result (deductive)
- Loving Discernment
 - We “tear down strongholds” – 2nd Cor. 10:3-5
 - We give an answer with meekness – 1st Peter 3:15
 - We can be a prophetic voice in love – 2nd Cor. 2:15