Benjamin Shields

Thinking like a Christian

I have been raised as a Christian throughout my entire life. I have gone to church every Sunday and have completed Bible verse studying classes. However, I did not know what a worldview is or how important it is for living life. Through my study of the book, *Thinking like a Christian,* I was able to discover this and much more about life worldviews and how there are different lenses that we see the world through.

The first thing I learned about in my study of the book, *Thinking like a Christian*, is the definition of a worldview. A worldview is a person’s overall approach to understanding God, the world, and how we as people fit into the mix of it. After understanding this concept, I was introduced to a new question, why is it so important for people to understand what a worldview is? After completing my study of the book, I came to the following conclusion. It is very important for a person to understand what a worldview is because without proper understanding of a worldview, a person cannot make an educated decision using different viewpoints. These viewpoints being theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

The first viewpoint that I am going to discuss is ethics. The most important thing I learned about ethics is the difference between a Christian’s values of a moral system vs the world’s value of a moral system. The world’s view of a moral or ethical system is based on themselves. This means that every person creates his own moral system to live by; but since we as humans are not perfect, we are incapable of making a moral system which holds any more value than any other person’s moral system. As Christians, we are shown how to live by God through the Bible. Since God was a perfect person who never sinned, He created an absolute moral system for us to live by. This absolute moral system provides a Christian with the perfect law and an example for how to live one’s life and how to treat others.

One of the main things that is important for biology is understanding the creation of life. The creation of all life is by God not by some random circumstances or by spontaneous generation. Some proof for this is actually in science itself. We can observe the second law of thermodynamics which states that without energy put in, things will always head towards a state of disorder not order. This however is contrary to evolution because things would have to be heading more towards a state of order for evolution to be true. There should also be a bunch of species that gradually appear as fossils. Instead, all the species start appearing as fossils around the same time. There is also evidence that shouts towards intelligent design in DNA. DNA is the building blocks of all life and is specific to each individual. No DNA is the same in any two people or things, and it is so specific that only minor alterations in the DNA sequence can completely change an individual’s looks or even what kind of thing it is. When all this is considered, it is hard to imagine that any of this could happen by accident.

*Thinking like a Christian* also teaches about psychology or the study of mans nature. The study of man’s nature differs from different viewpoints. From a secular viewpoint, psychologists claim that man is not capable of experiencing real guilt. They rather believe that man’s feeling of guilt is just them acting. This however is the opposite of the Christian psychologist’s viewpoints. because they know and believe that man is really capable of feeling real guilt and remorse for doing things that are wrong. They know this because we as Christians feel this guilt every time we sin and break one of Gods commandments.

For as long as history has been recorded, history has been one of the key things that point to God and His creation of the world and people. The *Thinking like a Christian* book teaches things that I know to be true such as how the Bible matches history perfectly. The Bible also teaches about the history of how Jesus came to the earth 2000 years ago, suffered and died on a cross to save all of mankind from their sins, and eternal suffering apart from God in hell. While atheists and historians don’t believe that Jesus is God or that God really exists, they cannot deny that Jesus was a real person and that he did die on a cross. They also cannot deny the impact that Christianity has made on history.

History has also been very important in recording political systems. These political systems have differed from monarchies to democracies, but there has always been some sort of political system for people to follow. However, something that I did not think about until after I completed my study of, *Thinking like a Christian,* is that it was God who ordained the system, and it is he who chooses who will be in charge. This means that Christians should honor those who have been given political power because it is God who gave them that power. However, that does not mean that as Christians we should stop worshiping God if it becomes illegal. Instead, it is the opposite. We should always do what is right by God and the Bible because God is a Christian’s ultimate authority. This is shown multiple times in the Bible including in the story of Daniel or in the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

In conclusion, the book, *Thinking like a Christian,* is a book which has taught me an incredible amount about worldviews and why they are important. It has taught me what biology, psychology, history, ethics and many more topics about which I did not have room to write have to do with our outlooks on life. This makes it a book which I believe that all Christians should read.