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Thinking Like a Christian

Growing up and attending a private catholic school, I was raised to be a Christian and believe in the one and only, God the father. One word that I was never accustomed to was atheists or secularism. They might have been vocabulary words on a chapter test, but was never brought up. Another word that was used in this textbook a lot that I was unaware of was “Worldview”. From what I took in from “Thinking Like a Christian”, by David Noebel, a worldview can be defined as a set of beliefs or a persons ultimate set of religious philosophical beliefs and values. The different types of worldview are atheism, deism, goodish, polytheism, pantheism, theism, and panentheism. This textbook breaks down the common Christian worldview in using 10 different disciplines, or 10 different ways of thinking of a worldview if you will. These 10 disciplines include Theology, Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and History.

The Christian worldview can be seen through the discipline of theology through special revelation and general revelation. Special revelation can be observed throughout the Bible because the Bible is full of the Lord’s divine words. It is hard to deny that God is real, from a already believer of God standpoint, but the evidence inside the Bible and through general revelation is overwhelming. General revelation is defined in the textbook as “ the means in which God reveals himself to mankind through the physical universe and the moral order. For example, looking at the stars, a pentagram of stars (or a star like shaped formed by 5 stars) represent the wounds of Jesus on the cross.

The second discipline is philosophy. Philosophy is the facts or truth behind theories. From a christian worldview, people may wonder how God can be proven as real. It’s simple. Look around. Atheists, or people that don’t believe in God, might use science as a reason to dispute God’s reality. However according to this textbook it is a reason to believe in God. To think that the Earth did not have a creator is selfish. Science is not the reason for God’s non-existence, but the evidence for his existence.

Growing up I was taught to wonder. To be curious. Which would always lead me to the big question. What is the origin of life? Under the biology discipline, and after reading this chapter, I have been convinced that nature is too perfect, atoms are too precise and intricate, the stars were once a highly ordered system, and last but not least, not even evolution suggests that God is false.

Jesus Christ himself is a teacher among millions of other things. A teacher of character, moral code, and consequences. The normal human christian psychology can perceive that through suffering comes positive changes in their life. This makes the quote “God has a reason for everything,” come to mind. Whether it may be a lesson, a reward, or a challenge. I now understand that God has a plan and we may not understand it at first but in the end, it will work itself out.

Knowing that the Lord is a teacher. He tried to teach us to shy away from evil and to love good. The moral code of christians isn’t based on faith or hope; it is based on the life lessons

God showed us through the Scriptures (special revelation) and general revelations. The knowing of what's right and wrong can be decided by the ole W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do)

Staying on the topic of good and evil, some may wonder how God wants the individual to act among their peers. Sociology, the sixth discipline is defined as a social science that focuses on society, human social behavior, patterns of social relationships, and aspects of culture associated with everyday life. God granted us all free will by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. However, with freedom comes responsibility. The responsibility of self care is just as, or even less important that the care of the society. The most important being family, church, and state. Families are created by a man and a woman being joined together through God's love and grace. They then can have children and form a respectful bond with one another. The church is a symbol and a place of worship. The church may be a symbol to remind people that they have sinned and are responsible for their actions. The Christian worldview teaches us to value both society and individuals among us. God taught us to respect everyone and love them as you would want to be loved.

The seventh discipline would be law. Whether it is civil code, moral code, governmental law, or even biblical law. (Acts 17:31) God will use it to judge the world. Like I stated later on in this essay, God has a plan. And one day this plan will be fulfilled. Before reading this textbook I never heard of judgement day. According to Romans 2:16 people will be judged on a standard of good and evil.

Another discipline, politics, is surprising related to God. Since God created moral code and biblical law, submitted to governmental and human law is like submitting and obeying Jesus Christ as well. Even in the Declaration of Independence it states, "God the almighty," "The Supreme Ruler of the Universe," and the year of the Lord." Just this chapter alone has made me aware of how much God is present in society today.

There is one thing that can bring out the bad side of people and that is money. As economy being the Christians worldview's ninth discipline. Money can buy most things in this world, but God would want people to respect other people's property, not be greedy, share with others, and live through a capitalist, free, economy.

The final and tenth discipline is History. As Christians we believe that the Bible and the stories in it are true. What I did not know was that there is actual real-life evidence of these stories around the world: such as the Kingdom of Israel, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Machaerus (where John the Baptist was executed).

After reading "Thinking Like a Christian," by David Noebel and Chuck Edwards, I learned a lot about the Christian worldview and the ways Christianity is more evident in today's society.