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30 July 2021

Thinking Like a Christian

The book *Thinking Like a Christian,* by David Noebel, guides the reader through an eleven week study of the ten disciplines to thinking like a Christian, and helps them to find a biblical worldview. Noebel defines a worldview as, “a way of understanding the world and your place in it.” (Noebel 1) When you think about world vision in relation to a biblical view, God should be the centerpiece of determining what should or should not be. The ten disciplines that are mentioned in the book are theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law. Politics, economics, and history. When looking at these disciplines today, there are two ways of thinking, secular and sacred. Sacred would be a biblical view and secular is the more worldly view of thinking.

The first few disciplines brought to attention in the book is theology and philosophy. Theology in basic terms is the study of God and his existence. As followers of Christ, Christians are tasked everyday with spreading the word of God and helping others who do not believe he is real, start down the path of believing. In week one, the reader is taught that the proof of God’s existence is everywhere. Noebel uses Psalms 19:1-4 as his biblical proof behind this claim. This verse tells us how the heavens and earth, nature, and all the stories passed from culture to culture and generation to generation is the evidence that God is in fact real. The way you perceive philosophy can either have a negative or positive outcome on your everyday life. Philosophy is your perception of reality. Every living person believes in something and has some kind of philosophy. Even people who say that they do not believe in anything, that is there belief. The belief in God helps us to think more biblically about different aspects of life, and this helps us to have a more biblical worldview.

The next few disciplines that are taught in this book are biology and psychology. When talking a bout biology in this book, Noebel refers to the thought of intelligent design versus evolution. In this sense intelligent design is the biblical view. Evolution is an idea thought of by Charles Darwin, that claims that everything evolved from something that was here before. Intelligent design is the idea that God created animals and humans separately and that humans were not evolved from apes. The book refers to a term called theistic evolutionism, which means that God create the first sparks of life, and then directed the creation through evolution. Noebel’s evidence to the claim of intelligent design is in the book of Genesis where we are taught that God created mankind in his own image, male and female. This means that from the beginning, both man and woman were created specifically as human beings.

On the other hand, psychology revolves around your thoughts and ideas and can influence your actions both adversely and in-adversely. The author describes psychology as the study of the soul, “the place where you do all your real living.” (69) Ideally, the way we feel and perceive life correlates to ones own character. With this being said, thinking like a Christian begins with your inner thoughts. We are taught as christians to give back when presented the opportunity and this is reflected through our character. As *2 Corinthians 9:7* states, “each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (NIV) Therefore, giving back shouldn’t be forced, but instead done whole-heartedly with unselfish intentions.

During the course of studying weeks six and seven, the reader learns how ethics and sociology both heavily rely on a person’s worldview. What you consider to be right or wrong is the study of ethics. To think like a christian, our ethical beliefs play a significant role in the actions we make on a daily basis. The book engages the reader to start thinking about the decisions we make, by questioning where the ideas of right and wrong come from. In todays culture, the ideas of right and wrong come from what’s socially acceptable and follows a more secular worldview. However, when trying to think like a christian, these ideas do not always accompany a biblical worldview. While trying to determine what is right and wrong in a biblical worldview, we should follow God and not the opinions of others.

Likewise, sociology uses what is right and wrong in order to create a healthy society for people to live in. Noebel separates sociology into three different ways people live together; the family, the church, and the state. The author states, “living in a healthy society sounds good, but we quickly realize that each level of society has its own benefits and pitfalls.” (107) In saying this, Noebel makes a valid point. When looking into each individual category, you can find the key reasons why some view the world differently than others. The most important section being the family. How we are raised is a major factor in how we perceive the idea christianity.

The last few disciplines that are presented are law, politics, economics, and history. Noebel uses a term called natural law. This terms means that every one has a sense of what’s right and what’s wrong. The reason we have law is because there are people in the world who choose to do the wrong thing. We also learn in the book that God does play a role in politics and there is a need for a biblical worldview. When determining whether certain things should be someone’s right or not, the Bible gives us the answers. This comes into play in cases of abortion and whether or not it should be legal. When looking into economics, it ties back in with psychology and giving back. Making money and wanting to make money is not wrong, but wanting to make money for selfish reasons is where peoples views of the world differ between secular and sacred. When looking at the history aspect, the author teaches us how the Old Testament continuously points back to Jesus and that we should do that as well in our worldview.

In conclusion, this book teaches the reader way more than just how to think like a Christian. Noebel teaches why we should think like a christian and what is wrong with us seeing the world in a secular point of view. In todays world, a majority of the people have a secular worldview, but this book shows us that having a biblical and sacred way of seeing things in the world, it can lead to happier and more fulfilling lives.

Works Cited

Noebel, David, and Chuck Edwards. *Thinking like a Christian: Understanding and Living a BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: STUDENT JOURNAL*. Broadman & Holman, 2002.