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07/30/2021

Thinking Like a Christian

“A worldview of any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides an overreaching approach to understanding God, the world and the relationship of people to God and the world,” (Noebel). Thinking Like a Christian discusses several different assets that are vital to the worldview of a Christian. It goes through the ten components that include: theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history. None of these are more important than the other, but three of them are more interesting from my point of view. Thinking like a Christian has very interesting takes on ethics, sociology, and economics in a Christian’s worldview.

Typically, when hearing the word ethic, one will think of right and wrong. Morality is something that spreads across all nationalities, ethnicities, cultures, races, etc. Everyone has their own meaning of right and wrong. Depending on where the individual is from, something might be wrong in one place but morally acceptable in another. However, as the book discusses, Christian’s morality is different. “There must be an absolute if there is to be a moral order and real values,” (Noebel 79). The next question would be what determines the ‘absolute’ for moral order and real values? God’s word in the Bible helps Christian’s differentiate between the unacceptable and acceptable. Noebel even goes as far as saying that God’s moral nature is unchanging and absolute. If a nonbeliever were to read this point of view, it would understandably (should) spark fear within them. They should want to follow after God’s teachings in the Bible because God determines right from wrong. Therefore, he determines everyone’s destiny. If individuals are walking around the Earth doing ungodly things, they will face the punishment for it. God determines the moral code and as a Christian, individuals should follow and lead others to do the same.

Not only should a Christian consider the moral code from Biblical lessons, but should also learn that the family, state and church are all ordained by law. These need to be respected and upheld. The family’s responsibility is reproducing. Marriage is ordained by God. When two are married, they can bare children. However, today’s society discredits and discourages marriages in several different ways. Individuals do not want to get married, are having children before marriage, divorcing, and practicing homosexuality. This is breaking up the order that God set into place. Noebel says that Christian’s have a duty to protect their family, state, and church. The family reproduces, state maintains law and order; The church keeps the Christian’s safe from social institutions. This is an interesting chapter of the book because today’s society has drifted away from traditional ideologies. This is a more progressive time. President Obama passed the law declaring same sex marriages legal and the month of June ‘pride’ month. In a Christian’s worldview, this could be looked at as an attack on Christianity. Homosexuality is not supported within the Bible and ultimately defers the traditional family. There are several different other movements that advocate for women’s right to abortion, LGBQT+ communities, and things like such. Examining these social movements through the eyes of Noebel’s point of view in Thinking Like a Christian, would put all of these as arguments against the already ordained life order from God.

Another order that was discussed is economics. Economics should have “checks and balances that guarantee protection of human rights,” (Noebel). The Christian’s worldview works better with a free enterprise system such as capitalism. Capitalism is a system that individuals thrive from gaining personal property and competing against competition. On the other hand, another economic system is socialism. Socialism is more of individuals getting equal shares of all profits. Capitalism aligns with God’s moral code because in the Bible it discusses and supports private ownership and stewardship of property. It may seem that Christian’s should support socialism, but that is not the case. Individuals complain of inequality in capitalism. However, it is not the results that individuals should be upset with. It is the unequal opportunity that is offered to some and not others that should enrage individuals. The fight should be for equal opportunity. “Justice is based not on equal result, but on opportunity equally unhindered by coercive shackles,” (Noebel 140). Awarding everyone the same result even if there are unequal efforts put in is not ethical in the Christian sense. While there are several individuals that are upset with capitalism, it is the only one that aligns well with Christianity. However, Noebel makes sure to say that no economic system can save humankind. Socialism, capitalism, Marxism, communism, nor any other economic system will be able to save humankind from their sins. This is an excellent evaluation. While it seems like individuals can get ahead by being wealthy, everyone will be looked at the same in God’s eyes.

Ethics, sociology, and economics are all topics that stuck out throughout this novel. Ethics discussed that God’s word was the absolute and unchangeable moral code. God’s lessons in the Bible aids in the knowledge of whether or not something is morally acceptable or not. Sociology in the Christian worldview should lead society into maintaining the already ordained order from God. The family, state, and church are already ordained by God. There are several forces that attempt to break this ordainment. As Christians it is a duty to prevent this and sustain order. Economic worldview in Christianity has a lot to do with equality. It is not equal results that people should wish for. Instead, they should be wishing for an equal opportunity to achieve the same results as others that are in better positions than they are currently. There are other worldview components mentioned throughout the book that are no more important than the three here. However, these seemed to be interesting points of view that are not typical to today’s society. Society has drifted from traditionalism into a more radical society. Things that were the “norm” back in the day, are being challenged. Thinking Like a Christian exemplifies the roles that Christians should be taking when their Christianity is being challenged.

Works Cited

David Noebel. “Thinking Like a Christian.” David Noebel 2002. Boradman & Holman Publishing Group. Nashville, Tennessee. 2002.