

Thinking Like A Christian Amelia Dute

Obligated upon all believers, if we think with the mind of Christ, we are more likely to live like Christ; holding God at the center with the Scripture as the guide and Christ himself as the benchmark of all truth. To think Christianly means thinking about all aspects of life, not just the religious, with many different worldviews. A worldview is a way of viewing or interpreting all of reality. A way that we make sense of life and the world around us. Worldviews provide an approach to understanding God and the world while also providing a perspective on each of the following ten disciplines: theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

The first discipline beginning with theology asks the question of is there a God and what is He like? Theism, the belief that God is, and atheism, the belief that God is not are two fundamental ways of seeing existence as a whole. The Bible shows that Christ's teachings and actions provide the cornerstone for special revelation and a foundation for Christian theism. God loved us and the world so much He sent and sacrificed His only son so that we can have a relationship with Him. If we turn to Him, He will be there for us with open arms. The second discipline, philosophy, asks what is real and what is true? Christian philosophers imagine the problem is that some thinkers place their trust in assumptions in search for truth while others place their trust in a different set of assumptions. The most important philosophical truth in the Bible is that Jesus is the word and mind of God. Christian philosophy says Christ is the explanation for the universe and everything in it while also claiming that the Christian doctrines of God are steady with science. Beliefs of the Bible can coexist with science. Christian philosophy represents a world view that is consistent with the Bible throughout. The third discipline, biology, questions what is the origin of life? Science gives information about God's universe. The Bible gives evidence that evolution runs contrary to reason, science and history. For Christians, the world is only comprehensible in light of God's existence. The fourth discipline, psychology explains the question of what is the basic nature of man? Only after accepting Christ in our lives, can we understand our value as creations in God's image. Guilt comes from sin, so as a Christian it is important to accept responsibility and ask for forgiveness to achieve healing. The fifth discipline, ethics, makes someone wonder what is considered right and what is considered wrong? The Bible provides a framework for what is right through Moral absolutes, Guidelines for behavior: The Ten Commandments, handed down directly from God. The Christian duty is to join the ranks of morally responsible people who serve God with their entire soul and spirit. The sixth discipline, sociology, deals with the question of how should society be structured? According to Christian sociologist beliefs, family, Church and State are the three most important institutions. They help teach love, respect, discipline, work and community. Both society and the individual are imperfect. It is our responsibility to recognize that we must face the consequences for our choices. We must protect and direct the growth of these institutions. The seventh discipline, law, shows and describes the basis for Law in the Christian mindset. Human government and law is to keep in check humanity's sinful nature. When God's laws are obeyed, people in society thrive. Mankind's legal system is based on God's Word and nature's law. Someday God, through Christ, will judge the whole human race. Christian law consists of five basic precepts which are based on God's unchanging character. God assigns

specific rights to all humans, but people become responsible for obeying God and protecting those rights for themselves and others. God further expects legal systems to hold people responsible for their actions and to restore God's order whenever possible. The eighth discipline, politics, asks what is the purpose of government? Government is a necessity to protect each person's unalienable rights from mankind's sinful tendencies. Loyalty to God motivates the Christian to become politically involved in an effort to create good and just government. The ninth discipline, economics, shows the Christian mindset of a sound economy. Christians believe the best economic system assures checks and balances that guarantee the protection of human rights. The Christian worldview embraces democratic capitalism, or the free and peaceful exchange of goods and services. In Christian belief, free enterprise – economic systems that check injustice and grant responsibility to people- in terms of both private property and economic decisions- allow the freedom for all to act with the dignity of beings created in God's image. Economic freedom and the right to private property are crucial for political freedom. The tenth and final discipline, history, describes how a Christian should interpret human events. The Bible is rooted in the story of God's involvement with mankind. Christianity centers around the reliability of the Bible, which has stood the test of time. People may freely choose to obey or disobey God, but it is only when they act in obedience that they can affect history positively. God gives meaning to history and to life. It is very important for Christians to understand other worldviews to positively influence society. Christians must gain an understanding of the times in which we live in order to have an active part in the social, political, and intellectual life of our communities.

I look forward to starting my future at a Christian school where I will learn to further my education of religious worldviews and the world of ideas that are shaping our culture. This knowledge will encourage me to think with the mind of Christ allowing me to live like Him in my everyday life.