What I Learned From my Thinking Like a Christian Study

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The textbook and study behind ***Thinking Like a Christian: Understanding and Living a Biblical Worldview*** was incredible. With each new chapter I was finding more and more ways to breakdown what it means to be a Christian and how I can defend my beliefs having a Christian worldview. In my opinion this book is a must read for all churches and Christian schools.

 I've never thought of a worldview the way this book explained it. I've always just seen a worldview as nothing more than your religion and your morals, but instead the book described a worldview as, “any approach you may use to understand God the world and the relationship of us to God and the world,” (pg.1). The book explains a Christian worldview through ten disciplines, each discipline asks an important question that can be answered in the Bible. The ten disciplines I learned about were theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, law, sociology, politics, economics, and history.

 The first discipline I learned about was **theology**, which is the view that there is a God and that he gives our lives a purpose. The purpose He gives us is to live a life like Him, know that we are sinners and turn from our sins, accept Him into our hearts, and tell the world about what he has done in our lives for the better. Not only do we know that we have a God but if we read out bible we know that he is a perfect, just, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipotent, jealous, patient, and moral God, (pg.26-27). We also know that God is three-in-one: God, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit which lives in us.

 The second discipline is **philosophy**. According to the dictionary I found out that philosophy is by definition, “the study of knowledge, reality, and existence”. Christian world viewers believe in two different realities. One is our natural world of which we live one, the other is the supernatural world containing all higher powers, such as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Only one being has ever been in both natural and supernatural form, and that was Jesus. When He walked the earth, He was 100% man and 100% God.

 Third was **biology**. “What is the origin of life?” The only logical answer comes from Genesis where we are told the story of creation. We know for a fact that God is all powerful and can do anything imaginatively possible. I believe creating our universe falls under this category. We can see his works just by looking outside and seeing what all he has created. The book used the example of finding a watch in the woods. We can look at its special design and know that someone must have designed and created it for it to exist. We should do the same thing with our universe and praise God for all he has made for us on earth. Just like any of these disciplines, if you study it deep enough it will lead back to God. I believe this is especially true for biology. Every day scientists are making new discoveries about ourselves and our universe that we once couldn’t fathom. If there was so much thought and perfectness in our biology, there must be a perfect designer who made us. Science cannot make us, but we can use science to learn about God’s creation.

 Although we live in a perfectly made universe, we as humans are far from perfect. And we learn this by the study of Christian **psychology**. This was my favorite chapter in the whole study since I am going to be a psychology major. We as humans have been born with our sinful nature. In todays time everyone wants to be the best and wants to be put on a higher pedestal above everyone else, and that’s not what the bible tells us to do. As a Christian we should know that we are sinners but remember that God still loves us. We need to repent from our sin and work to be Christlike. One quote from this chapter that caught my eye was from the chapter conclusion. William Kirk Kilpatrick said, “We have the same decision as Adam and Eve: either we trust God, or we take the serpent’s word that we can make ourselves into gods.”

 The next three disciplines were **ethics**, **law, and politics**. They all tie into each other in a way that we need ethics and absolute standards to have laws and rules to defend our standards. If your morals don’t line up with the law, then you are in trouble. We have our laws as Americans that we are to follow, and we have rules as Christians that we are to follow. Our ethics as Christians should be to live Christlike, loving God, and your neighbor as yourself. Aside from our special government laws we also have divine laws. These are laws moved from the bible. Although in school I was taught that legislator means “one who makes the laws”, it actually means “mover of laws” referring to our legislators moving laws from the bible to our government, (pg.110). We also need a well-built government to make sure we all have protected rights as humans, and to make sure there is order and not chaos in our state. Freedom and our unalienable rights are gifts from God that cannot be taken away from us.

 **Sociology** from a Christian standpoint showed me not only how important we are as individuals, loved individually and infinitely by God, but that God made us to be relational and to be surrounded by others. Although he made us to have relationships, he didn't make us to form to those we are around as people often do today. It is easy to get caught up in bad habits, addictions, and sin trying to be popular in high school, and I have seen many people lose sight of God wanting to be cool. It is an unpopular choice to stand up for your Christian beliefs in a time that values trending pop culture and fitting in as normal. We need to be well educated and firm in our Christian education and walk in faith. Instead we should help point the crowds we are around to God. We can build our church and help it grow into a bigger part of our communities. We can bring God to everyone, but it starts with ourselves, our families, and our communities. For our goal should be for everyone to turn to Him.

 Next is **economics**. Economics as a Christian means we believe that we are entitled to private property, as we have worked to earn it. As Irving E. Howard tells us, “The commandment ‘Thou shalt not steal’ is the clearest declaration of the right to private property in the Old Testament,” (pg.133). If we are entitled to our own property, then we must work to earn it. Work is unavoidable in order to live and have property. Paul said in 2Thessalonians that “If anyone isn’t willing to work, he should not eat” (pg.140). We are supposed to, as Christians, help those who can’t help themselves, but poverty can also be a result from sloth, and God doesn’t tolerate laziness. Also, in this chapter, I learned about the differences and similarities in socialism and capitalism.

 Finally, I learned about the **historical** significance of Jesus in the bible. It is true that almost every scientist today believes that the “man” Jesus walked the earth and preached, but history often leaves him there. It doesn’t call Him the Son of God or anything else because they say that they can’t prove that everything in the gospels was recorded by eyewitnesses. But we as Christians believe that they are true and that every word in the bible was written by men through God. I Believe that Jesus rose from the dead because if He wasn’t God’s Son as we know he is, His disciples wouldn’t have given their lives up for Him the ways that they did.

 In conclusion, I learned how to recognize and live out a Christian worldview. I can see all ten of these disciplines vividly and understand how to navigate through them from a Christian’s standpoint. Now that I can do this, I must study my bible so that I can defend my religion with God’s word, and use it to speak to others.