

Reality is defined as the world or the state of things as they actually exist and worldview is how you, as an individual, view reality. So how do we as Christians view reality? Everything we say, think, do, or believe should all originate from one single source, God's perfect Word. To have a Christian view of the world, is to look at every aspect of life from a Biblical point of view. When we look at the Word of God, we need to realize that it doesn't just define our reality, it is our reality. While reading the book *Thinking Like A Christian*, I attained a further understanding of not only what it meant to be a Christian, but how it should affect my day-to-day life and shape my entire reality.

Several unique aspects of a Christian world view that I never thought of, but found interesting were in the biology, psychology, and sociology point of views. I always knew that Christianity had its own belief on how life began and how it ends, but I never really dug deep into the core of those beliefs, but what was discovered while reading was truly fascinating. The first thing that caught my eye was about evolution. I really enjoyed the quote from Jacques Monod that states that natural selection is the "blindest and most cruel way of evolving new species." Growing up I was always taught that humans didn't come from evolution, but it was never really explained to me why evolution couldn't create something as complex as mankind. This statement right here was a perfect answer as to why we were created the way we were, and why evolution could have no part in that. Before reading the chapter on psychology, I knew that mental health was crucial to how you lived your life as a Christian, but after reading it I found out just how important a believer's state of mind is to our daily walk and world views. I found it very interesting when it was said that only after we receive Christ as our savior can we start to understand our value as His creation. I thought that was very moving and eye opening for me because identity can be a common struggle among teens and reading that really just encouraged me to realize where my identity as a believer actually existed. When I read that "Finding meaning in suffering is a feature unique to Christian psychology," I was just brought to a screeching halt. My favorite piece of scripture has always been the opening to James 1 where it talks about counting suffering as joy. This just really spoke to me because I didn't realize that we were unique in that way, and that no other religion has a good psychological method to dealing with suffering. When looking at the chapter on sociology I didn't really know what to expect because I wasn't too sure how it would play into our view of the world as Christians. After reading this I realized that it was referring to the insignificance of the social status when it comes to Christianity. God isn't concerned about your salary, your assets, or the business you may or may not own. God's only concern is the position of your heart and mind. An individual's position on the social scale doesn't matter when it comes to salvation. We are called to come as we are and lay it all down at His feet. I really think I enjoyed this chapter the most because my identity in the world, I feel, has always been something that I struggle with and this really helped me realize that my possessions do not matter as long as I have Christ.

Aside from things that I have never considered, there were also things that I read that I can apply to my daily life and use to better support my own Christian worldview. The first two considerations are aspects of psychology and sociology again, but I also found some very good points on the topic of politics that I will begin to use as well. Applying what I learned about the psychological aspect of a Christian worldview will be very helpful in allowing me to better deal

with hard times and my identity. To God, we are more than just a physical body, but a mind so powerful and well-designed that it can't be improved upon. We are God's perfect creation no matter the physical imperfections we might find. This chapter also improved my understanding on how to deal with trials and temptations that come my way. By viewing suffering as a way God teaches us valuable lessons, it can become easier to take the blows that every day life throws at us. Through the chapter on sociology, I can take away a better understanding of my status in God's kingdom, and how much more important that is over my status in the world. Just knowing that I am a part of that kingdom brings so much more joy than any amount of money ever could. I have never been one to spend frivolously or to act high class or pompous, but I was still able to be humbled by the fact that God loved me where I was at despite my mistakes. With all that has been going on in our world with politics, I was very interested in the chapter on this subject and I was not disappointed. After reading this, my takeaway is that no matter who's in charge, we are called to obey the person that God set in that position unless they institute something contradictory to the Word of God. We are called to obey God's sovereignty, but also the man that God puts in charge of us. Now even though this chapter is political, I still see the application of it in places such as where you work or even in your own home. Obeying authority is more than just obeying God or the president. It goes as far as doing what your boss asks of you, obeying your parents, or even just respecting people older than you.

How do we as Christians view reality? After going through the book *Thinking Like A Christian*, I can firmly say that I view reality from the outline set before me in the Word of God. As Christians we are called to have a worldview that reflects Christ and the way he presented himself which is holy and upright.