

Throughout the duration of my study of "Thinking Like a Christian," I became very aware of how God reveals himself in other ways besides the Bible, what physical and moral order is, how society attacks the Christian faith and tries to exclude God, and how man makes his own laws and why they fail.

The main question theology asks is there a God? Through special revelation and general revelation God reveals himself in many ways. Special revelation is the specific ways God reveals Himself to mankind through the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ. General revelation is how God reveals Himself through the physical universe and moral order, such as His creation and the structure of the universe. My favorite verse that was talked about during this chapter was Isaiah 44:6 "I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me." This verse shows God's divine power, and that He is the alpha and the omega.

Biology asks what is the origin of life? The world and every living thing on it suggests there is a creator, God. Without the support of the Bible, the thought that all living things came from such a small speck of life is impossible. Many people will make every excuse to exclude God from His own creation. Evolutionists' belief in evolution is so strong they will believe any theory that they can make fit the facts. I believe the best statement you can make regarding the origin of life is Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

What is the basic nature of man? Christian psychology tells us that man has a true feeling of guilt from rebelling against God. Psychology is used to help people recognize their shortcomings and sinful tendencies so they are able to see their need for Christ. The difference between Christian and humanist psychology is that Christianity enforces moral responsibility, opposed to humanism which blames an individual's failings on their environment and society. Christian psychology involves the individual's physical self (natural) and their spiritual self (supernatural). A Christian point of view suggests mankind's nature is inherently evil because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Understanding man's sinfulness is vital to understanding man's nature and mental processes.

Ethics discusses what is right and what is wrong. Christians present in a moral and physical order declared by the Creator through general and specific revelation. The Ten Commandments are a distinct, basic set of law for mankind acknowledged through the Bible, but these laws are not the only ones mentioned. Although we "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), we are able to point out our own failures and understand that who can save us is the only One who has never stepped out of the moral code, Jesus Christ. This is a unique aspect of Christian ethics, and we are able to be forgiven.

The study of sociology is based on the development, structure, and functioning of human society. But how should society be structured? The three most important factors to a Christian society are family, church, and state, and each level has its own purpose. The family is liable for raising the children and model godly living, the church is called to meet society's needs concerning evangelism, education, and social action, and the state is responsible for maintaining order and administering justice. To a Christian, an individual is more significant than society because as C.S. Lewis says, "individuals are more important, for they live eternally; and races, civilizations and the like, are in comparison the creatures of a day." This simply means that conflicts in a society are minute compared to the eternal life we will live.

Human history shows a continuing attempt by people to replace man-made law for God's law, however God's laws are eternal because He is eternal. John Whitehead explains, "If fallen human beings are in charge of creating law, one can rest assured that people will constantly recreate the law to better suit selfish interests." If there was no unchanging law, an individual would find it difficult to identify a moral code aside from that made up by other people. Although earthly laws are essential to restrict rebellion against God's law, the fulfillment of these laws will never be perfect.

What is the purpose of the government? Genesis 9:6 states, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood will be shed." This specific verse explains that human government was appointed by God to protect an individual's fundamental rights from mankind's sinful impulses. The Bible suggests limited government, somewhere in the middle of no government and total government. Christians understand that if all authority is placed into one or a few individuals' hands, it could become corrupt, so a government that diffuses power is preferable. It is important for Christians to remain obedient to God even if they must disobey man-made laws.

Capitalism is the economic system most compatible with the teachings in the Bible. One major feature of capitalism is economic freedom, this is where people have the right to exchange things willingly and own private property. One of the Ten Commandments is "Thou shall not steal," in my opinion, this is the most distinct declaration of an individual's right to private property. The right of private property derives from our duty to work. Proverbs 10:4 states, "Whoever works with a lazy hand becomes poor, but a diligent hand brings riches." Because God has allowed us the ability to own private property, we become liable for the way we use it.

The Bible contains the history of God's involvement with man, and without this historical documentation of Christ there would not be a Christian worldview. Some may question how accurate the Bible truly is because of how old it is and how many times it has been copied. However it was discovered that there were two copies of the book of Isaiah, and one of the copies was nearly a thousand years older than the other, yet they were almost word for word. God directs history to the day of judgement. This belief causes Christians to ratify a linear conclusion that displays the overall meaning with which God has endowed history.

I truly loved learning about how I, as a Christian, should stand in certain situations. Going through this book has opened my eyes and broadened my view of different topics and beliefs. I have never really thought outside of my comfort zone and this study helped to solidify my beliefs in my Christian faith.