“Thinking Like a Christian”

By Loren Rollins

Everyone has a worldview in which they base his or her thoughts, decisions, and actions; however, most individuals have a difficult time defending what they believe. It’s important to define what a “Christian worldview” is. The Christian worldview is closely connected to religion. It is believed to be the entirety of one's belief system such as: how someone views their world and understands it, and how we believe what our worldview is and influences how we live in the world. It affects every area of life. There are many different opinions from authors regarding what “Worldview” really is, but David Noebel defines worldview in “*Understanding the Times”* by these ten categories: Theology, Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and History.

Theology examines the question of the following: “Is there a God, and what is God like?”. Christian theism relies mainly on two basics. Special revelation and general revelation. Special revelation denotes the precise means by which God reveals Himself to mankind through the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ. The General revelation denotes the means by which God reveals Himself to mankind through the physical universe and the moral order.

Philosophy looks at the question of “What is real and what is true?”. Some individuals believe that having a Christian worldview means that they cannot have a philosophy of their own because it requires faith in biblical revelation. The single most significant philosophical truth in the Bible is that Jesus Christ is the word of God. Christian philosophy represents a worldview that is coherent with the Bible. In the end, we must choose between having a materialist/naturalistic worldview or a supernaturalist worldview. I believe that it is important to show others around us the importance of having a Christian realistic philosophy.

Biology examines the question of “What is the origin of life?”. For a Christian, the answer to this question is quite simple. God created all things and when He created us, He created us in His own image. Modern science was based on a Christian view of the world. Christians believe that the world was created by a master designer and in an orderly fashion. Evolutionists believe that life is the result of chance and that God had nothing to do with it. Many people accept evolution as a fact, while in reality, it's only a theory. There are many areas of science that support creationism over evolution such as DNA, spontaneous generation, the second law of thermodynamics, gene pool, fossil gaps, and punctuated equilibrium. According to Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth". This is the most accurate scientific statement one can make regarding the origin of life.

Psychology discusses “What is the basic nature of mankind?”. Christianity and psychology are comparable for the basic reason that Christianity contains psychology. We define psychology as the study of the soul and mind. Christianity is the only worldview that has true insight into the spiritual and mental realm and must be determined by scripture. A psychological worldview revolves around how people think about themselves in terms of who they are, how they act and feel, and how to change in terms of feelings, thoughts, and behavior. As we look at a Christian worldview, God changes people by grace through faith. God’s way is centered around Christ rather than problem-centered or self-centered. Sometimes people need more than just traditional psychological counseling when they go through the problems of life such as emotional, relational, or financial. They need to understand God’s will for their lives and they need His power working in their lives.

Ethics asks the question "What is right?". The fundamental basis for Christian ethics is the moral character of God. Francis Schaeffer stated that “some things conform to His character, and some are opposed to His character”. The purpose of ethics is to decide what follows God’s character and the things that do not. Christian ethics is based on the Bible and is essential to the proclamation of the gospel. Christian worldview makes sense because there is a holy and righteous God. We can be forgiven for falling into sin and disobeying His moral code.

Sociology looks at the question of “How should society be structured?”. Christian sociology is founded on the suggestion that the individual, as well as the social order, are not only important to God but also to mankind and society. God designed social institutions such as family, church, and government to teach love, respect, discipline, work, and community.

Christian Law examines the question of “What is the basis for law?”. Christians believe that God has provided laws for mankind to follow, and He is the one to whom all individual authorities are accountable in the areas of religion, ethics, and civil. The Christian concept of law involves both natural and biblical law. God reveals His law to people through their conscience of knowing what is right and wrong.

Politics takes a look at the purpose of government. Christianity understands that the state is a God-ordained institution and that He established the state to order justice. When the government rules within the borders of its role in God's plan, Christians respect, obey, and participate in the government. Christians believe that the government is appointed by God, and as long as it serves the purpose of God, the Christian shows commitment to God by submitting to the government.

Economics examines what produces a sound economy. On the issue of economics, Christians seem to be divided. Many believe that the Bible teaches us that economic freedom and the right to private property are essential for political freedom. According to Ronald Nash, economic freedom and the right to exchange things voluntarily is the main feature of capitalism. Socialism calls for public rather than private control of property and natural resources. The word of God is more supportive of an economic system that respects private property, work ethic, and personal responsibility.

Our History discusses how we should interpret human events. Christians believe that the foundation for their worldview appeared in the history of Jesus Christ over two thousand years ago. Christianity and history have always been linked together. Humanism beliefs declare that man can save himself; however, Christians have a clearer understanding of human nature. This allows them to understand humankind's role in history regarding the past, present, and future. If our history's viewpoint is true, then the Christian worldview is proven correct. It is based on the fact that knowing, accepting, and following Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is the most important thing an individual can do. God gives us meaning to history, and life.

As a follower of Christ, I believe that having a Christian worldview gives us a sense of God’s plan and purpose for our life in this world. Everything in our life and our identity of who we are in Christ is shaped by our Christian worldview. It provides the basis for ethical thinking, and we understand that we are made in God’s image. Even though mankind was created in God’s image, there were significant and negative influences upon God’s creation when sin entered the world. However, it’s important to understand that by the grace of God, we have the opportunity to live in the right relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves. Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are provided forgiveness of sin which gives us hope in death and the promise of eternal life. In the middle of all the challenges and struggles that life brings us, having a Christian worldview helps to stabilize life and serve as a foundation that links us to God’s love and fatithfulness.