

As a Christian, we struggle to understand how to be a Christian in the world we live in today. We are being pulled every which way because of so many different viewpoints that we do not know which way to go. The only way that we are able to know what is wrong and what is right is by digging deep into the Word and meditating in prayer. Knowing how we as Christians view the world helps us to understand how we can teach others and even possibly lead them to Christ. The book *Thinking Like a Christian* helps us to understand how our views as Christians compare to the world's views and teaches us how to navigate those views and understand them through God's eyes.

Everyone has a worldview whether they think they do or not. A person's worldview is how they see the world and others and is the basis for how people approach their life. Like a puzzle, the following ten disciplines interconnect to make up a worldview: theology, philosophy, biology, psychology, ethics, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history. Contrary to what some people believe, the Bible speaks to each of these disciplines. One only has to look at the creation story in Genesis and the life of Jesus to see this. Because of this, the Bible and Jesus Christ are the basis of the Christian worldview.

The doctrine of theology and philosophy are the foundation of every worldview. What one believes about God and what one believes is real affects our views on all the other disciplines. As Christians, we believe that God is relational, righteous, and ruler and we can know him through special and general revelation. We can read the Bible to know him better. He has also revealed himself in all creation. What we believe about God influences what we believe is real. Our philosophy helps us make sense of the world around us. Three different philosophies exist: naturalism - only the physical is real, non-naturalism - only the spiritual is real, supernaturalism - both the physical and spiritual are real. Christians believe in

supernaturalism - God, nature, and the spiritual world are real. Faith and reason are not enemies. Christian philosophy is both biblical and rational.

People's views on biology answer the question how did life originate. There are 2 views: naturalism and supernaturalism. Naturalists believe that life came through natural processes. Many scientists and atheists have this view and believe that evolution is the only way that explains how we have come into existence. Their way of thinking is at fault because our molecular structures and the way we are created does not match their beliefs. We as Christians know that our life originates from God because of what the Bible says and also because of how some creatures such as the bird are designed and how intricate our bodies are made. We know that creation demands a Creator because of how amazing creation is.

As we see how humans are made, we are also able to see the basic nature of man through the study of psychology. Some people like the Marxists and Humanists believe that the individual is good and society has corrupted them. As Christians, we believe we were created in the image of God, but we have inherited a sin nature through the sin of Adam and Eve. Each person is responsible for his or her own sin. We must recognize our sin and repent and turn to God to help us. Being able to see how we were created spiritually and physically really helps us as Christians to know that we are here for a purpose and that we are wonderfully made.

Our ethics determine what we believe is right or wrong. Humanistic ethics believe that there is no absolute right or wrong. They change with the opinions of the times. Christians believe that God has provided an absolute ethical standard for us to follow and we can know his standard through the Bible and Jesus Christ. We must be grounded in God to truly know what is right and wrong. To be in accordance with God's will, we must first give our hearts to Jesus and let him come in because we can't do God's work without God in us and working through us!

Our sociology worldview influences our belief on how society should be structured. We as Christians believe that God has ordained three social institutions: the family, church, and state. Each has a role to play in our lives but should not encroach on the rights of the other. We are able to see that God created us to be social so we can interact with people and be able to understand someone and understand what they are going through. Being able to see what they're going through allows us as Christians to form a relationship with them and to be able to show God to them! We as Christians are valuable and capable of contributing to society to help further God's kingdom.

Laws simply describe the world we live in. Everything in our world is based on law and the way things need to go in order for the world to work. As Christians, we believe that the legislators should not create the laws but should study the Bible and find the laws that need to be given to the world through Jesus. And as Christians, we should help people see that following the moral law of God brings life. Government is a way to help us live by these laws. Politics look at the purpose of government. Christians believe that the purpose of the government is to protect mens' unalienable rights from mankind's sinful tendencies. Because of the sin in the garden, we need these laws in place in order for us to follow them so our sinful tendencies do not get out of hand. Government is ordained by God to protect the innocent from the evildoer and should be based on biblical principles. Therefore, we have a responsibility to see that godly men and women are elected to office. That is why the government and who we have in office is so important.

The type of government we have influences our economy. Some worldviews like socialism believe that the government should control all parts of the economy. Others believe that the economy should be based on a free market with very limited governmental control. As

Christians, we believe that everything belongs to God and that people have the responsibility to work and a freedom to work where they would like. We should be good stewards of what God has given and use what we have to help others and further his kingdom.

History is very important to our worldview because it answers the question how we interpret human events. We can trust the Bible is real because archaeology has supported the history in the Bible. God has always been here throughout history. God is everything from past, present, and future. There is nothing that God does not know or God has not already seen. He has a purpose in everything that has happened or will happen.

Before I started reading this book, I really did not have a full grasp of what it meant to think like a Christian. Being able to see how God is interconnected through everything, no matter what it is, really allows me as a Christian to see how God is working through everything. If we could see how God sees everything, then it would help us so much more. By reading this book and studying with my youth pastor about how to think like a Christian, I learned so many things about how the world views us as Christians and how they view God and Jesus as a whole. Being able to see the way that other people that are not Christians look at God or may not even believe in God has really helped me to better understand how we as Christians are supposed to think and act. This book has been a great experience and an amazing eye-opening book to me and I am able to see how understanding other worldviews helps me to be a better Christian and not just a talking Christian but also a thinking, talking, and walking Christian in everything I do!