

Biblical Worldview

By Scott Huckaby
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For Discussion: Cultural Christianity and the Decline of Biblical Worldview in America (Robert Bortins, classicalconversationsfoundation.org; Jan 2, 2024)

What percent of Americans are likely to be taken in the rapture?

The percent of Americans with a biblical worldview are a pretty good indication of the adults that'll be taken. There will more plus all the children below the age of accountability... The adults taken without a biblical worldview will be "babes in Christ" or "carnal Christians" (smelling like smoke... with no rewards).

- The danger is: if you are not growing in your faith and knowledge of the Lord, you have to wonder if you are really fooling yourself that you even are saved.

Cultural Christianity and the Decline of Biblical Worldview in America

Barna's most recent report titled Incidence of Biblical Worldview Shows Significant Change Since the Start of the Pandemic, was released on February 28, 2023 by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. This report showed that only 4% of Americans hold to a biblical worldview. This was down from 6% from a similar report three years prior.

- Barna's research showed that only 1% of adults under 30 have a biblical worldview. By contrast about 5% of those ages 50 to 64 have a biblical worldview.

<https://classicalconversationsfoundation.org/cultural-christianity-and-the-decline-of-biblical-worldview-in-america/>

What's a Christian Worldview?

by Del Tackett – February 21, 2024

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/whats-a-christian-worldview/>

What's a worldview?

A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. "[It's] any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world," says David Noebel, author of Understanding the Times.

- For example, a 2-year-old believes he's the center of his world, a secular humanist believes that the material

world is all that exists, and a Buddhist believes he can be liberated from suffering by self-purification.

- Someone with a biblical worldview or a Christian worldview believes his primary reason for existence is to love and serve God.

How does a person's worldview impact how they conduct their life?

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action.

- Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art and social order — everything.

How would the belief in secular relative truth impact how you view art for example?

If you believe that beauty is in the eye of the beholder (secular relative truth) as opposed to beauty as defined by God's purity and creativity (absolute truth).

- Then any art piece, no matter how vulgar or abstract, would be considered "art," a creation of beauty.

What's a biblical worldview?

A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do.

How might you survey a biblical worldview?

The following questions are based on claims found in the Bible and were the ones George Barna used in his survey:

- Do absolute moral truths exist?
- Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
- Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
- Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
- Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
- Is Satan real?
- Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?
- Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?

Did you answer yes to these? Only 9 percent of “born-again” believers did.

How does a biblical worldview get diluted?

Nonbiblical worldview ideas don’t just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them. They bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books and academia.

- Because we live in a selfish, fallen world, these ideas seductively appeal to the desires of our flesh, and we often end up incorporating them into our personal worldview. Sadly, we often do this without even knowing it.

How might the dilution of a biblical worldview result in Christians indulging in immorality?

For example, most Christians would agree with 1 Thessalonians 4:3 and other Scriptures that command us to avoid sexual immorality, but how often do Christians fall into lust or premarital and extramarital sexual sin?

- Is it simply because they are weak when tempted, or did it begin much earlier, with the seductive lies from our sexualized society?

Why are there so few Americans with a biblical worldview?

Someone once remarked that Christianity in America is a mile wide and an inch deep. In other words, there are many people in the U.S. that attend church or claim Christianity as their faith, but unfortunately that widespread identification with the Christian faith does not translate into an identifiable walk with Christ that is consistent with key components of a biblical worldview.

- A shocking statistic from Barna’s research shows that the majority of Americans consider themselves to be Christians (68%), but only 6% of them have a biblical worldview.

Why are there so many people identifying as Christians but have no idea what it means?

These people could be referred to as cultural Christians, which are individuals that claim to be Christian but instead are shaped and molded by the world rather than by God’s holy Word. As a result, America’s spiritual health has been cursed by cultural Christianity.

What does the low percentage of a biblical worldview indicate?

Christian organizations have failed to influence the world for Christ... It logically follows that biblical worldview in America would decline as it has first declined in many of our Christian organizations.

- It should grieve us when we see churches and other Christian organizations behaving like the world.

How many times have we heard about Christian organizations that have covered up misconduct and other wrongdoings and have established a culture that rewards deception, manipulation, and underhanded behavior rather than honesty, transparency, and hard work?

- Many private Christian schools attempt to attract students by promoting the attainment of world-recognized achievements rather than give priority to spiritual development.

What does it tell us that Jesus didn’t rebuke the Romans as He did the Jewish religious leaders?

It’s tragic when institutions and their leaders who are supposed to be leading people to Christ choose instead to model themselves after the world and its ways.

What is the prophetic significance of the decline in a biblical worldview?

Apostacy...

1 Timothy 4:1 – *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*

The final phase in the Church Age is reflected in the lukewarm, spiritually poor Laodicean church (Revelation 3:14-22). This no-doubt prompted Jesus to comment:

Luke 18:8 – *when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*

What should we be doing to grow in our biblical worldview?

If we are going to grow in our faith and become more like Christ, we must make God top priority in our lives and stop chasing after the world.

- CS Lewis said that as Christians we need to act on what he called First Principles. God is the first thing and the world and its possessions are second things.

What is the principle here that we need to apply to our lives?

When we strive for the world, we end up losing everything in the end. However, when we strive for God, we get God and everything else for eternity.

Matthew 6:33 – *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

So, if you put second things first you will miss out on God and in the end, you will eventually lose everything you have gained in the world.

What specific steps can we take to grow our own biblical worldview?

- As step one, we should make our own spiritual life top priority. At the least this should include regular prayer and Bible reading as well as active participation in a local Bible-believing church.
- For step two, as parents, we need to be very intentional and focused on guiding our children to a biblical worldview.

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- The decline in a biblical worldview is disturbing and a wake-up call for the church.
- Most Christians are cultural Christians who need to grow in their relationship with Jesus; don't let that be us!
- The decline in a biblical worldview is a symptom of apostasy... our redemption draws near!