

Worldview ~ Part 7

Conclusion

by Steve & Carol Ryerson

Congratulations! You made it. You have read a series of articles lasting over a year. Imagine that: a seven-part series, and we are ready to conclude. If you actually have read all of them, you have an attention span that is much greater than average, no doubt.

Where have we been in this series? We have ranged far and wide as we have considered most general aspects of the human experience from the Biblical, humanistic, and communistic experience from the Biblical, humanistic, and communistic perspectives. Each of these viewpoints has sub-categories that we have either ignored or touched on only lightly. After all, with writing “only” seven articles on the topic of worldview, we could not go into too much detail with any one segment. (Some of you are asking if I’m serious. The ones who have read all the articles probably know that I am.)

Before we proceed to our review and summary, let me say a few things about resources. Since I’m writing and you’re reading, you don’t have much control over that, do you? (I guess you could just skip the next few paragraphs and finish sooner.)

We have made several references to a book called *Thinking Like a Christian* by David Noebel. A few years ago Dr. Noebel wrote a lengthy book called *Understanding the Times*. My edition of that 891-page book weighs 3 pounds according to my bathroom scale. Dr. Noebel sometimes jokes that it makes a good door stop ~ for a big door. He saw that he needed to give some practical advice for teachers, youth leaders, and parents as to how to put a broad, complicated topic into a form that the average person, especially young person, could understand. So, he prepared *Thinking Like a Christian*. It comes in an easy 184 pages and 1.4 pounds. That includes a CD at the back that gives you a leader’s guide, some handouts, and charts. Those materials are organized and presented in four forms, depending upon who you are working with. There is a version for adults, college students, a youth group, and home schoolers. Overall, I have found this book very helpful.

There is another book that you should consider: *Let Us Highly Resolve* by David and Shirley Quine. The Quines have an appreciation for how art, philosophy, music, literature, and history can come together to help us understand almost any situation in the human experience. This small book (128 pages) can help you to understand some large concepts. Go to www.cornerstonecurriculum.com for more information.

Another short and excellent resource is by Israel Wayne of Wisdom’s Gate called *Homeschooling From a Biblical Worldview*. Israel and his wife Brook, who were both home educated, home school their five children in addition to writing and speaking on various topics. This book is very broad ranging and would be a good book to help you see how a Biblical view of life affects every area of our thinking. If you are not sure why a study of worldview is important, or if you are a beginning home schooler making basic curriculum decisions, this book is for you. You can go to the Wisdom’s Gate website and purchase both Israel’s book and the one by David Quine (www.wisdomsgate.com).

We began our series on worldview by looking at why it is important to think Biblically. We did that by considering the study of philosophy i.e., how we know what is real. Worldly thinkers find their reality within themselves, but Biblical thinkers find it in God. The difference is huge and basic. When you begin within yourself, you end up with self-centered conclusions. When you begin with the reality of Jesus Christ and proceed from there, you get very different conclusions about

everything.

We then looked at biology and ethics, making some connections between the two areas and between them and the Word of God. The creation vs. evolution debate is not so simple as a person deciding whether he came from a blob in the ocean or from the hand of God. If we are essentially just high advanced blobs, then we are not responsible to anyone ultimately. We should just live lives that seek the most pleasure and the least inconvenience for ourselves. Then we just “check out” of this life and into nothingness. One of the aspects of life that evolutionists have difficulty with is self-awareness. That is, how do we know that we are just blobs? If you go out into a field after a rain storm, pick up a blob of mud in your hands, form it into a human shape and begin talking to it, it is not likely that you will get an answer. Saying, as the evolutionist would, that the essential difference between you and the blob in your hand is chemical complexity is not adequate. So, when and how did we start knowing who we are? But, if God made us, then we can easily see that He is the One Who shows us who we are and the One to Whom we are responsible.

We have been working on a concept throughout this series even though we have not stated it overtly. That concept is that a Biblical worldview is far more than having right opinions about certain “hot button” issues in the world today. It is more than being against abortion and gay marriage. It is more than just being for traditional family values and honesty in government. It has to do with the way we seek a life’s marriage partner. It has to do with the way we think about our time and money. It has to do with who we consult when we are having a problem in life and how we view their advice. Worldly psychologists, for example, do not view man’s nature as being fallen. They do not see people as hopeless without God. They do not consider that violation of real law can cause real guilt which can be dealt with by repentance from real sin and reconciliation with a real God. They see guilt as something created by society for the purpose of control. So, their advice tends in the direction of dealing with false guilt by seeking an inner peace about situations. You get that peace by accepting your own rationalizations ~ your explanations of why you do what you do.

We worked personally with a woman who has five children from two or three different men (she is not sure how many). She was living with a man to whom she was not married. That live-in had an apostolic background but was in rebellion against the truth. We began to tell her the truth about what she needed. She listened politely and said that she agreed with some of the things we were saying. After a short time, the man left. She made no move to repent of sin. She told us that she had “come to peace with herself” about her life. However, her concept of peace had much more to do with quieting her conscience than it did with the peace of God. This is a real-life example of humanism ~ the man-centered worldview ~ in action. For the humanist or communist, peace of mind has nothing to do with God.

The above example serves as a lead-in to our summary of one of the most important parts of this discussion of worldview i.e., our view of law. If God does not exist, or if we behave as though we believe He does not exist, then the dominoes begin to fall and fall and fall. If we put man at the center of reality and decision making, then our laws will start becoming arbitrary, founded only in man’s changing opinion. The well-known Christian lawyer John Whitehead said that when the fundamental principles of law are undermined, “public confidence in law and public willingness to abide by law are also sapped.” Dr. Noebel added that public trust in laws disappears because when law is not considered sacred, neither is it considered binding. (Thinking Like a Christian, pg. 105)

If there is no God, then He’s not watching me. If He’s not watching and nobody else sees me, then I can do anything I want as long as I don’t get caught. One of the things we mentioned before is this thinking leads to oppression. It leads to governments with large police forces and systems of secret informers to tell the rulers who the “dangerous” people are i.e., the people who are a threat to the rulers. We gave the traffic light example: if people don’t stop on their own for lights, then we need

more police at the intersections. Those police must be paid, and that pay comes from high taxes that must be levied on the people. Doesn't it remind you of what God told His people that a king would do to them if they rejected God's leadership and placed a human king over them? He told them that this earthly king would multiply wealth and wives to himself, and he would turn their children into servants. (Deuteronomy 17, I Samuel 8)

We have also looked at sociology to see what a Biblical perspective of the home, church, and state is. Only by looking at and obeying what the Word says about how to structure these institutions can we expect a God-honoring society to result. In history, we saw that truly it is His-story. History in Biblical perspective is the study of the unfolding of God's plan in man's society. What has happened through the ages as people have either submitted to or rebelled against God's truth? How has God stepped into the world to make His will known?

Another area that we looked at was economics. E. Calvin Beisner made a very interesting statement in his book *Prosperity and Poverty: The Compassionate Use of Resources in a World of Scarcity* (Crossway Books, 1988, pg. 66). He said, "The only way to arrive at equal fruits is to equalize behavior, and that requires robbing men of liberty, making them slaves." He was discussing the idea that some Christians are bothered by the fact that some people in the world have a lot of material goods, and some have few. Some of those Christians want everyone to share what they have so that the differences between rich and poor will be reduced. That has some attraction at first, just as so many of the wrong ideas of the flesh and the devil have some attraction if you don't think Biblically. Wealth is created by people of good character working hard in a society that is orderly and free. The idea that wealth is created is Biblical in that man bears the image of God in his soul. God gave man the ability to be creative which is part of God's own nature. Of course, man creates by rearranging things whereas God creates by speaking things into existence, but man has creativity nevertheless.

If the Church and family are doing what they are supposed to do, more people will have good character. If the government is doing what it is supposed to do, then evil doers will be punished, the righteous will be rewarded, and the concept of private property will be preserved. Then people will not be slaves; they will be free to be creative, and living standards will rise.

Psalm 2:1-6 ~ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Throughout this series we have gone back to the Biblical foundation in everything we have discussed. Man's sinful tendency in all areas of life is to reject God's plan in favor of his own. Most of you, our readers, have followed the Word of God in salvation: you have believed God, repented of sin, allowed Him to wash your sins away in water baptism, and have received His Spirit. You have made great strides in allowing Him to clean you thoroughly. Our goal here has been to open your eyes to the fact that He is concerned with EVERYTHING in life. We cannot take certain subjects of study such as history and say that we can pick just any history book off the shelf and assume we are going to get a Biblical view. We will not get a Biblical view unless the author of the book is purposely sensitive to what God has done in history.

We hope that as you teach your children, you will think of every area of life as God's area and teach them to think Biblically in all things.

