

66 April 23, 2022 – Biblical Worldview

A **Biblical Worldview** is based on the infallible Word of God. When we believe the Bible is entirely true, then we allow it to be the foundation of everything we say and do. A person with a **Biblical Worldview** thus believes their primary reason for existence is to love and serve God. Then a **Worldview** without the Biblical approach is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. It is any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overreacting approach to understanding God, the world, and man's relationship to God and the world. Nonbiblical **Worldview** ideas do not just exist in a teaching waiting for people to examine them - they bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books, and academia. In fact the public educational system and now most of the colleges in the United States teach, if they teach at all, the **Worldview**. When prayer was removed from public schools in 1963 the downfall of Christianity therein spiraled in an American Nation built on Christian principles resulting in a populace in 2020 of maybe 211 million people of 335 million who say they are Christians. That translates to a population of supposed Christians of 63% down from 90% several decades ago. Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, according to Barna Research Group in current research finds that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life. In the last two years Christian church attendance has fallen with 22% churched and many churched people hearing the doctrine of the **non-Biblical Worldview** of Christianity. Attendance in church does not necessarily mean that people believe and follow the doctrine of the Bible. Barna's research showed that a majority of American Christians do not believe the Gospel of Christ. The younger you are, the more likely you are to never have been to church. Unlike Christianity in America, Christianity is growing the fastest in South America, Africa, and Asia but also in areas where Christianity is forbidden as in the Middle East and Russia. Ukraine a Nation under attack from Russia is largely a Christian Nation at 68% of the population.

A recent nationwide survey discussed above and completed by the Barna Research Group determined that only 4 percent of Americans had a **Biblical Worldview**. When George Barna, who has researched cultural trends and the Christian Church since 1984, looked at the **Born-Again** believers in America, the results were a dismal 9 percent when connecting an individual's **Worldview** with their moral beliefs and actions. Examine this with the 67 million abortions in the United States by Supreme Court law since 1973, and the Supreme Court disillusionment of marriage as only between a man and woman in 2013. People are overpowered by Government and Major News Media on following a completely different lifestyle than that prescribed in the Bible with the worst influence on the generations since 1963. Ole Satan has had his way in the beliefs of the American peoples because he has been allowed to dominate their lifestyles. The Old Testament is saturated with sin such as adultery and homosexual lifestyles, but Gods punishment always was brought on the people for their straying from His laws. Today 6.4% females and 4.9% males openly claim to be of the LGBT community and almost 50% of marriages end in divorce resulting for as much as 30% of children being raised by one parent or by grandparents. In addition many of these children are being subjected to child trafficking including in their own homes with up to 25% in the United States.

A personal review as George Barna used in his questions as to believing a **Biblical Worldview** is noted as follows:

- 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?

But what's more important than your "yes" to these questions is whether your life shows it. Granted, we are all sinners and fall short, but most of our gut reactions will reflect what we deep-down, honest-to-goodness believe to be real and true. 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. 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? Or even worse when Governments try to dictate our moral beliefs, an example as reported by American Faith Life that the Chinese Communist Government bans "Christ" from messaging Apps and lumps this with heinous crimes. Governments worldwide have been and continue to use extreme versions of coercion to destroy our religious freedoms.

If we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world. Through the media and other influences, the secularized American view of history, law, politics, science, God and man affects our thinking more than we realize. We then are taken captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ (Colossians 2:8). However, by diligently learning, applying and trusting God's truths in every area of our lives, whether it's watching a movie, communicating with our spouses, raising our children or working at the office — we can begin to develop a deep comprehensive faith that will stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture's nonbiblical ideas. If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses to questions on abortion, same- sex marriage, cloning, pharmaceutical research and even media choices. Because, in the end, it is our decisions and actions that reveal what we really believe. *"And do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect"* (Romans 12:2).

1 John 2:15-17 says "*Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever*". 1 John 3:1 & 13 then states God's outlook "*See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you*".

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