

Hidden Worldviews

Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

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Message Truth:

Many of the problems facing today's church are a result of the hidden worldviews which predominate much of our thinking. We have allowed our culture's traditions and progress to blur our interpretation of Scripture. In the early years of the Christian movement, individuals of means sold their earthly possessions and gave the proceeds to the poor as they left their homes and went to preach the gospel all across the known world at great personal cost. What prevents us from doing so today? Has the urgency of our cause lessened in these 2,000 years? No! What has changed, however, is that today we allow the hidden worldviews of materialism and individualism to hinder our obedience to the Great Commission.

Series Text:

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:9–12

Why do we not see clearly? What obstructs our view? Satan opposes our adoption of a Gospel-centered worldview.

- **Worldview is the level of our rational existence where we understand and accept what is true and valuable.**

"People do what is important to them," and their worldview is how they determine what is important.

- **Music is the best indicator of a person's worldview.**
- **Worldview is instrumental in our conversion.**
- **Discipleship is the process of our pre-conversion worldview being changed into the gospel's worldview.**
- **Failure to completely change our worldview is a sign of spiritual immaturity.**
- **Acceptance of "hidden worldviews" makes Christians spiritually sick and ineffective.**

² . . . be transformed by the **renewing of your mind.**

Romans 12:2b

²³ . . . **be made new in the attitude of your minds;**

Ephesians 4:23

¹⁰ . . . **put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**

Colossians 3:10

⁷ **For as he thinks within himself, so he is.**

Proverbs 23:7a (NASB)

The Hidden Worldview of Consumerism or Materialism

- "I am what I own"

The acceptance of "hidden" worldviews explains how Christians give intellectual accent to the truths of the gospel without obeying the gospel fully and allowing God's Spirit to sanctify and rule us completely.

The Hidden Worldview of Individualism

- "I am the center of the universe"

Is it possible to sing 'Jesus loves me' so loud that it drowns out the proclamation that 'God so loved the world?'

"One of the first questions we need to ask about any worldview is, "Who gets to be God?" Individualism attempts to put us in the 'God-position.'"

Two Types of Individualism in America Today

- **Utilitarian individualism** - focuses on personal achievement and material success.
- **Expressive individualism** - worships the freedom to express our uniqueness against constraints and conventions.

One reason individualism is so appealing to us is our own sinful nature gives each of us a strong bias toward our own selfish interests.

The Hidden Worldview of Nationalism

- "My nation, under God"

"Nationalism is the imbalanced and distorted form of something that is good: patriotism."

It is important to recall that the "n" in Nazi stood for "nationalist." These ideas were combined with a German tradition which encouraged the church to obey the body politic, resulting in a system intended to unite all the Protestant churches in Germany under a single bishop, the Fuhrer.

Two Types of Nationalism in the American Church Today

- **Uncle Sam's Way = God's Way** - In the U.S., nationalism is found in some conservative Christian circles.
- **The Democratization of the Church** - Congregational polity as practiced in Scripture is for the whole congregation to discover God's will together rather than a purely democratic style of governance.

We should ultimately care more about whether we are on God's side than whether or not God is on our side.

7 Generations Make Up Today's Church

- **Lost generation** born between 1893-1900
- **Builders generation** born between 1901-24
- **Silent generation** born between 1925-45
- **Boomer generation** born between 1946-60
- **Busters or Generation X** born between 1961-81
- **Millennials** born between 1983-2001
- **Internet generation** born from 2001 to present

Steps to Ensure Yours Is A Gospel-Centered Worldview

1. Surrender your m_____ to the Lord at the b_____ of each day.
2. Let the Holy Spirit r_____ your mind through the W_____.
3. As you pray each day, ask God to give you that day a s_____ mind, a s_____ mind, a s_____ mind, a s_____ mind.
4. During the day, "m_____ your mind!"
5. Guard the g_____ of your mind.