

Hidden Worldviews

Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

Sunday, November 14, 2010

Pastor Warner Smith

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 hidden worldviews 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)

Hidden worldviews attempt to reduce everything to categories which can be resolved with substitutes for God. In consumerism, wealth is seen as a substitute for security. Hedonism offers us sex as a substitute for love.

Consumerism or Materialism
Individualism

"I am what I own"
"It's all about me"

Nationalism "My nation, under God"

Moral Relativism "It's all relative"
Truth depends on one's point of view. What is true for me may be very different than what is true for you. Anyone who claims to know the truth is arrogant and dishonest.

Moral relativism has a number of problems. It is internally inconsistent: If nothing can be known to be true, then you can't argue that moral relativism is true. Society could not possibly operate because justice and fairness become simply personal matters of opinion.

Scientific Naturalism "Only matter matters"
All that exists is physical. Reality exists only in atoms, elements, or energy. There is nothing beyond this life. Anecdotes of life after death are simply byproducts of the electrical misfiring within our brains as it shuts down.

There is no God, miracles or souls. Science becomes a form of salvation.

One problem with this view is that while science provides tools for explaining what we *can* do, it does not offer any direction concerning what we *should* do.

The New Age "Are we gods or are we God's?"
Attempts to assist human beings in achieving our full potential while also enabling us to recognize our own divinity. It is believed that such enlightenment is necessary to break down barriers of race, nationality, ethnicity, and religion and bring universal salvation to all mankind.

New Age thought is absorbed by Christians through cultural trends within society. Christian beliefs on premarital sex, abortion, and the desire for personal fulfillment are often based on New Age ideas rather than Scripture.

Postmodern Tribalism "My tribe/my worldview"
Identity has become anchored in ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or some other element which is stronger than other identities such as "American." Tribe members share a sense of identity which is defined by common language, meaning, experiences, ideas and a feeling that the group is necessary for their own survival.

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 mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day.
2. Let the Holy Spirit renew your mind through the Word.
3. As you pray each day, ask God to give you that day a single mind, a submissive mind, a spiritual mind, a secure mind.
4. During the day, "mind your mind!"
5. Guard the gates of your mind.