



# HOAW Newsletter

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2*

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ." Colossians 2:8*

## January 2021

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

## Worldviews in Focus

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

Recent events give evidence of conflicting worldviews whether BLM, Antifa, Democratic or Republican shenanigans, socialism, progressivism, or some other ideology. Each of these worldviews are vying for ascendancy, pushing to become the meta-narrative to which we all must subscribe. Instead of a measured dialogue, each demands our attention by being loudly proclaimed.

**A worldview is simply a view of the world. Everyone has one. A worldview is a set of beliefs we hold about the BIG questions of life.**

**What are the BIG questions of life?**

**What is real?**

Is the world I experience real or is it a figment of my imagination? Are miracles real or are they just natural occurrences we don't understand? Can I even know what's real?

**Is there a God?**

Is there just one God or many gods? Is God close to us or distant? Is there even a God out there?

**Where did we come from?**

Did God create human beings or did we just by chance evolve from lower life forms? Do we have past lives we can't remember? What does it mean to be human?

**How should we live?**

What can we do to get to know God? What does God want from us? How can we know what's right and wrong? Do our lives have purpose?

**Where are we going?**

What happens when we die? Is there an afterlife in Heaven or are we reincarnated into other living beings? Or is death the end?

George Barna of Barna Research Group identifies characteristics of a Biblical worldview. *"A Biblical worldview is a means of experiencing, interpreting, and responding to reality in light of biblical perspective...it provides a personal understanding every idea, opportunity,*

*and experience based on the identification and application of relevant biblical principles so that every choice we make may be consistent with God's principles and commands."*

I make a distinction between a Biblical worldview and a Christian worldview. Christian worldviews have basic similarities between them but often reflect a predisposition contingent on a denominational distinctive or theological preference based on a particular theological framework. Such worldviews are overlaid by certain beliefs and values germane to doctrines of a specific framework. For instance, reformed theology (Calvinism) differs from baptistic theology although there are also similarities such as the preeminence of Christ as the cornerstone of faith and the authority of Scripture as the primary rule of faith and practice.

In general, a Biblical worldview reflects a fundamental adherence to God's nature, principles and commands found in Scripture avoiding where possible denominational or theological overlays. Again, in my understanding a Biblical worldview stands above and over sectarian Christian worldviews. For many

of us, this distinction is not so clear because we often conflate a Biblical worldview with a Christian worldview calling it one in the same. The differences will be apparent as we continue our exploration together.

Every worldview begins with a set of beliefs that establish key values (the hills we are prepared to die on, the principles we intend to live by, the filter through which we process our significant decisions).

These beliefs and values generate overarching motives that energize and animate our behaviors. They are brought into play when a circumstance, event, or encounter stirs them within us. These motives are stimulated by the passions within our soul.



As the diagram suggests, our beliefs matter. What we trust in, rely upon, and cling to at the core of our being will be reflected in the values we hold, the behavior we engage, and the impact we have.

From time to time, we need to evaluate our Biblical worldview (our beliefs and values) and our behavior for alignment. After careful reflection we may need to adjust our beliefs and values to ensure coherence, congruence, consistency, and compliance with God's commands and principles found in Scripture.

What do I truly believe?  
 What do I truly value?  
 What choices do I make?  
 What impact am I making?  
 Are my worldview, values, and behavior aligned?

**What are some corrupted worldviews from your perspective?**

- **Secular Humanism:** man is the center of the universe; no higher order exists.
- **Ethical Humanism:** the human quest for being good through human efforts.
- **Postmodernism:** truth is relative, rationalism and reason are subjective.
- **Hedonism:** pleasure and self-gratification is our primary objective.
- **White Supremacy:** the white race is superior to all others.
- **Self-gratification:** a form of hedonism that focuses on sensuality.
- **Self-actualization:** sees life through the lens of self-interests and fulfillment.
- **Self-preservation:** anything that ensures self is sustained is justifiable.
- **Sense of Entitlement:** life owes me, and I deserve it.
- **Alternative Lifestyles:** all sexual preferences and conduct are permissible.
- **Predatory Mentality:** you deserve what you are willing to take by force.
- **"The World is My Oyster":** everything is fair game for satisfying my wants.
- **Relativism:** truth is merely opinion, that which the majority says it is.
- **Pluralism:** the multitude of views, values, and practices in the world with no justifiable way of choosing among them are equally acceptable.

**Every philosophy, ideology, political system, or -ism has a worldview comprised of a certain set of beliefs and values that provide answers for the BIG questions of life regarding ultimate reality, personhood, overarching dilemma, solution for that dilemma, and ultimate destiny.**

Several influences can inform and condition our worldview (beliefs and values). Four predominant influences come to mind.

- The **world** (1 John 2:15-17; 1 Peter 2:11)
- The **flesh** (Mark 7:20-23)

- The **Enemy** (1 Peter 5:8-9)
- **God** (Titus 2:11-14)

Which of these influences hold sway depend on one's spiritual health and maturity, our reliance on empowerment from the Holy Spirit, and the decisions we make in the moment. Unrepentant sin can lead us to the dark side.

**The World:** Scripture draws a clear distinction between friendship with God and friendship with the world. James 4:4 tells us that "friendship with the world is hatred toward God." He goes on to say that "anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." The apostle James uses the strong words "hatred" and "enemy" to drive home the point that we can be in the world or in the kingdom, but not both because they are at opposite ends of the spectrum. Those who choose worldliness choose to live in the enemy's camp because all that is of the world is under the control of Satan (1 John 5:19). He is the ruler of this world, and when we choose the world, we enlist in his evil army and become enemies of God.

**The Flesh:** You brought to your Christian commitment a fully conditioned mind-set and lifestyle developed apart from God and centered on yourself. Since you were born physically alive but spiritually dead, you had neither the presence of God nor the knowledge of God's ways. So you learned to live your life independently of God. It is this learned independence that makes the flesh hostile toward God. During the years you spent separated from God, your worldly experiences thoroughly programmed your brain with thought patterns, memory traces, responses, and habits which are alien to God. So even though your old self is gone, your flesh remains in opposition to God as a preprogrammed propensity for sin, which is living independently of God.

Certain beliefs are essential to a Biblical worldview. Barna suggests eight essential beliefs...

- Absolutes exist and the Bible defines them
- Christ lived a sinless life

- God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe
- God still rules the universe today
- Salvation is by grace and not by works
- Satan is a real being
- Christians have a responsibility to witness
- The Bible is accurate in all its teachings

Certainly, these suggestions are critical.

More clearly, Worldview is a composite and systematic ordering of our beliefs and values into a collective whole, a lens, through which we view and interpret life. The question we need to answer are...

- What is our worldview?
- How do we view and interpret life?
- How do we make sense of the world around us?
- How do we respond to the events we are exposed to daily?
- How do we make order of the world around us?
- How do our attitudes, whatever they may be, shape the way we see our world?

These questions specifically deal with our worldview, whether we can articulate it or not. Our worldview is shaped by our beliefs, values, and other pervasive influences such as what we read, who we listen to, the experiences we've had, the crises we have faced, and the world around us. A more subtle influence is Satan himself. **Our worldview is our beliefs plus our values!**

Our worldview is the lens through which we view the world and try to make sense of what we observe. Godly wisdom is necessary to form a Biblically centered worldview through which to process our world and personal events, situations, and circumstances that we face daily. Correct interpretation of our observations and the principles we bring to bear as we evaluate these observations, is a precursor to understanding and effective resolution.

According to Dr. David Clark, former provost of Bethel University and

renowned theologian, five essential issues must be addressed in the formation of a 'worldview.'

1. The nature of ultimate reality.
2. The nature of human personhood.
3. The basic human dilemma.
4. The solution to the human dilemma.
5. Our human destiny.

For instance, let us compare two worldviews, secular humanism and Buddhism, with Christianity. With regard to the nature of **ultimate reality** the secular humanist views the natural world as the ultimate reality. The Buddhist, on the other hand, sees nothingness as the ultimate reality—that is, what is true reality.

When it comes to a theory about **personhood**, the secular humanist sees mankind as highly evolved animals. The Buddhist sees mankind as non-distinct, a simple part of a complex whole. Self-actualization is completely out of the picture because self-identity is an anathema (a taboo) to Buddhists.

The **human dilemma**, the essential problem of making it through life, is a lack of knowledge for the humanist. The Buddhist' perception regarding the essential nature of the human dilemma is the problems that arise from human desires.

When it comes to the **solution for the human dilemma**, the humanist believes that education will solve any problem. The Buddhist believes we must experience enlightenment that presupposes an elimination of human desires.

Finally, the concept of our **human destiny** is 'living the dream' for the humanist. In other words, taking full advantage of what the natural world has to offer requires knowledge that can only be produced by proper education. For the Buddhist, our human destiny is met when we reach Nirvana, a euphemism for 'nothingness.'

In simple terms, a Biblical worldview includes the following...

SCRIPTURE		
Reality	God	Gen 1:1, 26-27; Eccl 3:11; John 1:1-4, 14; Rom 1:19-20
Person	Image bearers	Gen 1:26; 5:1; 9:6; Ps 139:1-18; Eph 4:24; James 3:9
Dilemma	Sin	Matt 15:18-19; Rom 5:12; 3:23; 6:23; 7:23; Eph 2:1-2
Solution	Christ	John 3:16; 10:30; Rom 10:9, 10; Phil 2:5-8. Col 2:9, 10
Destiny	Heaven or Hell	Rev 21:1-4; John 14:1-4; Heb 9:24; Rev 20:14-15; Mk 9:43-47

I cannot stress enough the importance of the solid foundation of a Biblical worldview. Otherwise, we will be carried away by every wind of doctrine. Not having a Biblical worldview makes us susceptible to drifting in the direction of the strongest wind (like a weathervane). I would challenge each of you to seek out biblical answers to the following questions to define your Biblical worldview. It would be interesting to interview someone regarding these questions to gain insight on how they view the world.

### The Nature of Ultimate Reality

1. What is your belief about divine intelligence?
2. Is the world we live in all there is to reality?
3. Is there a higher intelligence out there?
4. Does God exist? If so, how is He related to humans?

### The Nature of Human Personhood

1. What is your understanding about humanity?
2. What makes us human?
3. What makes us distinct from other living things?
4. Are humans' animals of a higher order or the divine image of God?

### The Basic Human Dilemma

1. What is the basic fundamental problem of mankind?
2. What is the single most significant issue that prevents us from reaching our full potential?
3. What holds us back from reaching perfection?
4. What prevents us from rising above our situation or circumstances?

### The Solution to the Human Dilemma

1. What is the solution to the basic human dilemma?
2. How can the problem of mankind be resolved?

3. What force or forces can be brought to bear to solve our dilemma?
4. What is the answer to our dilemma?

### Our Human Destiny

1. Where will you go when you die?
2. Is there existence after death?
3. Is there more than one destination after death?
4. If there is a place of 'bliss' how do we attain it?

Knowing the perspective of other's worldview can help you answer questions they are asking. At the very least, you will understand how to engage them knowing how they think about the world around them.

There is peace and hope in knowing God's perspective on the BIG questions.

## OTHER NEWS



**Heart of a Warrior Ministries** offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

**The Foundation** (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

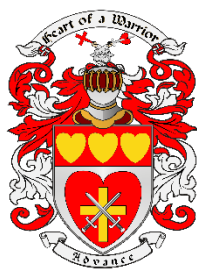
**The Compass** (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

**The Map** (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

**The Guide** (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.  
[www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/](http://www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/)

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at [HOAWMinistries.com](mailto:HOAWMinistries.com).



## Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on [heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org). Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out *The Store* on our website ([www.heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org)). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

**NOTE:** Throughout the course of the year, I will be adding helpful and informative resources to [Heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org). They may be found on the **RESOURCES** page of the website.

## Websites for Men

**Heart of a Warrior Ministries**  
[www.Heartofawarrior.org](http://www.Heartofawarrior.org)

**Legacy Minded Men**  
[www.legacymindedmen.org](http://www.legacymindedmen.org)

**Church for Men**  
<http://churchformen.com/>

**Resolute**  
<https://beresolute.org/>

**Life Way Men**  
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

**Men's Fraternity**  
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

**Man in the Mirror**  
<http://maninthemirror.org/>

**Men with No Regrets**  
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

**National Collision of Men's Ministries**  
<http://ncmm.org/>

**Every Man's Battle**  
<https://newlife.com/emb/>

**Iron Sharpens Iron**  
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

**Ransomed Heart Ministries**  
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

**Band of Brothers**  
[www.bandofbrothers.org/](http://www.bandofbrothers.org/)

**Man Up God's Way**  
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

**Iron Works**  
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>