

A Christian's Worldview

Does my outlook, or my worldview, need to be rethought? Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *worldview* as “a comprehensive conception . . . of the world especially from a specific standpoint.” We all have a worldview that affects our daily choices, prejudices, and attitudes. Let us consider our general outlook toward civil authority and church authority.

Some see situations or decisions in black-and-white terms. Everything is entirely wrong or it is entirely right. Anyone who cannot understand this clearly is written off. Others see the same situations from a different perspective entirely and find the issue to be complex. Some are almost locked up with indecision. Is our outlook or inherent way of reacting unalterable? Each one believes his view is correct.

If one has some principles he holds to firmly and will not yield or compromise, where does it divide between being self-right or strong-willed, or standing for what is right and not compromising with wrong?

Questions for Discussion

1. What shapes a person's worldview?
2. Is it unalterable?
3. Why do we often believe our worldview is correct and everyone else's is less so?
4. How can parents raise their children to respect others' views and not feel theirs are inherently better?
5. What can we do if we are too suspicious of everyone and their motives? What if we are too trusting?
6. What causes one to live in suspicion of the government or those around us?
7. What drives suspicion toward the medical community and trust in less conventional or alternative methods?
8. What effect does an inclination toward believing unproven theories about world events have on our peace?
9. How do the following affect my responses, decisions, and positions?
 - How I feel about myself and my place in my environment
 - The issues I am sensitive about
 - How I feel about politics and the officials who shape national policies
 - How I feel about congregational leaders and church authority

Scriptures

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 16:2, 9, 16 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.

16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Romans 13:1-3 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

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