

Chapter 4 – A Biblical Worldview and Its Effect on Politics

What is a Christian worldview? How does it affect political policy?

A. Components of a Biblical Worldview

1. God created everything

- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1).
- And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according its kind. And God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:25).
- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Gen. 1:27).

a. Implications:

- i. When God's creation of the universe is excluded from our nation's educational system, the most fundamental fact in the entire universe is concealed from children in schools.
- ii. God deserves the obedience and worship of his creatures.
 - Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created (Rev. 4:11).
- iii. God has planted some indications of his existence and character in the world that he made:
 - The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork (Ps. 19:1).
 - His invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made (Rom. 1:20).

2. God reveals himself and his moral standards clearly in the Bible

a. True knowledge about God comes through the words of the Bible

- Faith comes from hearing, and through the Word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).
- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).
- It is the "sacred writings" of the Bible that are "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15).
- "Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:21)
- "Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!" (Ps. 119:1).
- "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your Word" (Ps. 119:9).

b. God's moral standards are not simply for the church, but for every single person

- "They are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead" (1 Pet. 4:4-5).
- God. . . "commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

c. Implications for how Christians understand political questions that involve moral issues

- i. If God says that murder is wrong (Ex. 20:13), and if it is determined that this command applies to unborn children and to the elderly or very ill, it affects one's views on laws regarding abortion and euthanasia.
- ii. If the Bible views homosexual conduct as morally wrong, then that influences one's views on laws regarding homosexual "marriage."

3. The original creation was "very good"

- God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good (Gen. 1:31; see also Gen. 3:18; Rom. 5:12; Eccles. 7:29).
- The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it (Gen. 2 :15).
- And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

a. Implications:

- i. Productive work is not evil or something to avoid, but good and part of God's purpose for human beings.
- ii. The "ideal" life for human beings is not perpetual inactivity and laziness, but meaningful, productive activity, filled with work that is pleasing to God.

4. Because Adam and Eve sinned, there is moral evil (“sin”) in the heart of every human being
 - a. There is a measure of moral evil (what the Bible calls “sin”) in the heart of every human being
 - b. The Bible shows that this moral evil must be defined in comparison to a standard that comes from God.
 - c. This has immense implications for numerous policy differences between the parties
 - And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat. . .” (Gen. 2:16-17).
 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate (Gen. 3:6).
 - Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned One trespass led to condemnation for all men By the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners” (Rom. 5:12, 18-19).
 - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23).
 - d. This has several implications for one’s worldview, and one’s view of many political questions:
 - i. There are moral standards external to the human race
 - ii. Human nature is not basically good
 - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death (Jas 1:13-15).
 - iii. Human responsibility
 - iv. Some violent, irrational evil
 - But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer (Rom. 13:4).
5. Because Adam and Eve sinned, God placed a curse on the entire natural world
 - Cursed is the ground because of you; In pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you” (Gen. 3:17-18).
6. God wants human beings to develop the earth’s resources and to use them wisely and joyfully
 - And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Gen. 1:28).
 - a. God expected Adam and Eve and their descendents to explore and develop the earth’s resources in such a way that they would bring benefit to themselves and other human beings.
 - b. This does not mean that we should use the earth in a wasteful or destructive way, or intentionally treat animals with cruelty
 - Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast” (Prov. 12:10),
 - God told the people of Israel to take care to protect fruit trees during a time of war (see Deut. 20:19-20).
 - “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39).
 - c. We should view the development and production of goods from the earth as something morally good
 - d. It was not his intention for all human beings to live in abject poverty, or to live as subsistence farmers barely surviving from crop to crop

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