

## R12.2 September 2024 Blog Everyone Has A Worldview

It continues to be very important for each follower of Jesus Christ to read, study, and absorb the deep meaning of Romans 12:2. It is a command we are expected to obey. All who tune into this blog on a regular basis already know that passage reads, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."<sup>1</sup>

The church school movement of the 20th century led Christians into a serious error. It taught that if someone sat for an hour on Sunday morning under the leadership of a good Bible teacher and learned something, that intellectual exercise satisfied one's commitment to Christ for the week. In a similar manner the evangelical movement for the last 150 years taught that we Christians are sinners deserving God's punishment but, because of Jesus, we are in a right relationship with God and can look forward to heaven; not a whole lot more matters. While the teaching about sin and Jesus was correct, the message was clearly incomplete and resulted in the church walking away from having little if any influence in a fallen world.

Thankfully, worldview thinktanks like the Colson Center<sup>2</sup> assertively work to correct such errors. Colson said the concept of worldview was easy to understand; worldview is simply understanding "how the world works and how one fits in." He further asserted that everyone has a worldview whether they know it or not. A person's worldview can be determined based upon their answers to four questions: Where do we come from? What is wrong with the world? Is there a way out? How do I live my life in response to my answers to the previous three questions?

### **Question 1:** *Where do we come from?*

**Gen 1:1** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." **Gen 1:31** "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."

**Gen 2:7** "then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature." **Gen 2:18, 21-22** "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture references in this blog are ESV unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> In 2004, Chuck Colson began teaching a more complete understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a group of people he first called Centurions and now are dubbed by the Colson Center as Commissioned Colson Fellows. They are so named and commissioned only after a yearlong rigorous study of Biblical Worldview (for details: <http://colsonfellows.org>).

**Answer:** *God created the world, and it was very good. He created man, and then woman to populate His very good world.*

**Question 2:** *What is wrong with the world?*

**Gen 3:16-19** “To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.’ And to Adam he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, “You shall not eat of it,” 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; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’ ”

**Answer:** *Humanity sinned against God by their disobedience, eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequences are clearly delineated in Genesis 3:16-19. Every person born since was born with a sin nature, which continues to infect and affect everything in the temporal. See also Romans 3:23.*

**Question 3:** *Is there a way out?*

**John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” **John 3:16-18** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

**Answer:** Judgement is sure<sup>3</sup>, but there is a way out, but only one way<sup>4</sup>. *Jesus’ death and resurrection cover the sins of all who believe in Him. A person must be reborn, born of the Spirit<sup>5</sup>*

**Question 4:** *So, how do I live my life?*

**Rom 12:1-2** “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

<sup>4</sup> John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

<sup>5</sup> John 3:5 “Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

**Answer:** *As followers of Jesus, we must continuously work in concert with the Holy Spirit as He transforms our lives into the likeness of Christ so that we can be His agents in a fallen world, evangelizing the lost and building up our fellow believers.*

The Christian worldview is the only one that makes sense as we observe everything going on in the world. God created us, but we are tainted with sin because the first human beings exercised their wills against God. The world is in a fallen state as a result, yet God provided a way out through the birth, perfect life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. The penalty for sin has been paid on our behalf. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation, it is a gift, paid in full by our Creator. Therefore, we are to live our lives for Him, for His glory. The Shorter Catechism states our purpose succinctly, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever."

Understanding Romans 12:1-2, God is effectively calling us to live our lives in accordance with *the only* true worldview. How are you doing? Are you being conformed to this world or transformed to discern His will?