

INTRODUCTION

1. What is a worldview?

- a. A worldview is the way we view life and determines the decisions we make in life. It determines our values and the way we interpret situations and events.
- b. Brian Walsh and J. Richard Middleton in their book *The Transforming Vision: Shaping a Christian World View* describes it as such:
"A worldview is never merely a vision of life. It is always a vision for life as well. Indeed, a vision of life, or worldview that does not actually lead a person or a people in a particular way of life is no world view at all. Our world view determines our values. It helps us interpret the world around us. It sorts out what is important from what is not, what is of highest value from what is least."
- c. A world view is both individual and shared with a community.
- d. Our goal as Christians is to view the world God does and to respond as He would He would desire us to. There is no compartmentalization of thought and actions into the "sacred or secular."

2. Biblical basis of stewardship

- a. God is the Creator, Owner and Ruler of all things (Psalm 95:3-7, Colossians 1:15-20).
- b. We were created in God's image and we are to be like Him, represent Him, relate as He would relate and respond as He would respond in our dealings with His Creation (Genesis 1:26-30 John 1:14-18; 2Corinthians 3:18).
- c. We were created to do good works (John 15:9-1; Ephesians 2:6-10).
- d. Our worldview of stewardship is shaped as grow in our relationship with Him, surrender ourselves wholly to Him and seek for our minds to be transformed by the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:24-25; Mark 12:28-31, Deuteronomy 6:4-9) — God's claim on us is comprehensive: heart, soul, mind, strength.

STEWARDSHIP IMPLICATIONS

1. Our Thought Life

- a. We are bombarded with information – we need to be able to discern what is true, useful as opposed to what destroys, clutters (Colossians 2:6-8)
- b. Understand the difference between knowledge and wisdom (Ecclesiastes 1:16-18, Daniel 1:17-20)
- c. God desires that we be wise (I Kings 3:5-12, 4:29-34)
- d. Understand that the purpose of knowledge and wisdom in the context of our roles as "stewards" of God

- e. What are we to think about? (Philippians 2; 4:8; Colossians 3:1,2)
- f. We need to develop the “Mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2)
- g. A Christian mind takes into account supernatural and eternal perspectives, awareness of evil, concern for truth, recognition of God's authority, concern for humanity and affirmation of life (*The Christian Mind* by Harry Blamires)
- h. To develop a Christian mindset
 - i. Study scripture
 - ii. Practice the spiritual disciplines
 - iii. Seek God, seek the guidance of His Holy Spirit (John 15:1)

2. The environment

- a. God created the world and said it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31)
- b. The earth is His possession (Psalm 95:1-5)
- c. God is active in the world providing for His creatures (Psalm 104)
- d. God is revealed in His creation (Job 38-41)
- e. God cares for His creation (Matthew 6:23-30)
- f. God will ultimately also redeem creation (Romans 8:18-22)
- g. God has given us stewardship responsibility over creation (Genesis 1:26 28, 2:15 Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Leviticus 25:1-7)

3. Artistic talents for the glory of God – Visual, Dramatic, Musical, Writing etc

- a. Artistic talent is God-given (Exodus 35:25-35; I Kings 4:29-34; Daniel 1:17-20)
- b. The purpose of the arts is to glorify and praise God, to reflect the beauty of God's creation.
- c. To express ourselves to God and others in ways not possible through just mere declaration of facts. Music and the arts makes use of the full range of human emotion.
- d. To communicate God’s truth
- e. To participate and rejoice through participating in God's creativity.
- f. To enrichment the lives of God’s people

Resource: “*Stewardship as a Christian Worldview*” by Keith B. Miller, Ph.D.