

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 10:1-4

Date: July 27, 2013

Title: "Towards a Biblical World View"

Focus: What is a world view and why is a biblical one necessary?

Intro:

1. In the letters to the Corinthians, Paul writes about living a sanctified life. In First Corinthians, he confronts the Corinthians about their sin. In the second letter he responds to challenges by some in the congregation who are questioning Paul and what he is teaching.

2. By the time we get to chapter 10, Paul is addressing the claim he is *two-faced*, "*meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent*" (v. 1). Apparently there were some who said if Paul were a real leader, he would be "in their faces" when he was present among them.

3. Paul responds by pointing out that the way disciples of Jesus look at the world is different from the non-believer. The presence of God in a person's life and the truths He make known, shape the manner in which believers deal with circumstances and people.

Body:

What is a World View?

It is the perspective from which a person sees and interprets the world. It is a collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or group.

One's world view is the framework by which a person makes sense of life and the world.

For example, a 2-year-old believes he's the center of his world, a secular humanist believes that the material world is all that exists, and a Buddhist believes he can be liberated from suffering by self-purification.

Whether it is realized it not, everyone has a world view.

These principles operate on conscious and sub-conscious levels.

One's world view will be secular or God-centered. What this means is that a manner in which a person attempts to understand life will be fashioned by their experiences (secular/humanistic) or by God and His revelation (God-centered).

It is possible to have a *religious* world-view that is purely secular and have nothing to do with God. Karl Marx believed religion had a place in society. It was a useful distraction (his "opiate of the masses" comment.) Do not confuse God-centered with religious or religious verses secular.

Why is the topic of a world view important? Because what a person believes shapes how he or she lives.

How is a World View Established?

How can you tell what your world view is? Take a look at what you believe.

Example:

Is "*beauty in the eye of the beholder*" (relative truth) or is beauty defined by an absolute truth? If so, then any piece of vulgar art can be considered a creation of beauty.

George Barna used the following questions in a survey to determine people's world view:

- Do absolute moral truths exist?
- Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
- Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
- Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
- Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
- Is Satan real?
- Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?

- Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?

Unfortunately only 9 percent of Americans hold a *biblical* world view.

A biblical world view is shaped by the teachings of the Bible and a person's interaction with God and His people.

A secular/humanistic world view results from the exclusion of God, the attempt to figure things out on our own, and our dealings with fallen fellow humanity.

As God is excluded from the classroom, society, conversations, government, politics, etc. a secular/humanist world view is ensconced and promoted.

What does it Mean to Live by a Biblical World-View?

Paul provides the answer in vv. 3-4, "*though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*"

Even though believers live a physical life, they are not to look to the physical world for their understanding of life. In Paul's case, he did not deal with people as they dealt with him. Instead, he dealt with them as God would.

The manner in which a disciple of Jesus is to understand and conduct his or her life is based on the empowering presence of God's Spirit within. Not by the same spirit of humanity that drives others.

Followers of Christ operate by a different power. They live according to another set of laws. They see the world through the eyes of God not man. They are "strangers" in a foreign land, "ambassadors" for another king (2 Peter 2:11 / 2 for. 5:18-20).

Closing:

1. Jesus revealed that how people live is directly related to what they believe (Luke 6:45). What do you believe about the world in which you live? Is your understanding of life shaped by God's character and what He reveals?
2. More than likely it is shaped by your experiences in this world.
3. A person who clings to who God reveals Himself to be and who lives according to His precepts and teaching can be said to possess a biblical world view. Such people will find themselves at odds with the majority of other people.