

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



Lies of the enemy enslave people and our society. These counterfeits of God's truth include secularism, relativism, individualism, and materialism among others. God presents His absolute truth in the Bible, and the church needs to confront the enemy's lies with God's truth. As the Word declares, the truth will set people free.

Paradigm Shift: Initially, Jesus' disciples had a very different perspective of whom Christ was and what He came to do than what Christ knew was reality.

Jesus worked to shift their faulty paradigm. The world today has a very different value system from that of God's Kingdom, and believers in the church initially have a mindset that has been shaped by that faulty value system. Our society defines success in terms of authority, power, and winning, and equates failure with laboring, serving, and being subordinate. As believers are taught and adopt Kingdom values, their ambition should become that of being a servant—serving the needs of others in love.

ABCs of Culture: Knowledge and truth form the foundation for a nation's development and flourishing, while ignorance and lies from Satan form the foundation for a community's or a nation's destruction. When individuals believe the enemy's lies, they are enslaved and impoverished. To the extent that nations believe his lies, they are likewise enslaved, impoverished, and fail to reach their God-given potential.

Culturally held beliefs—truths and falsehoods—enter into the laws and structures and institutions of our societies. God has charged the church to be a maker of culture. We must identify cultural lies and replace counterfeit building blocks with Kingdom principles. Only Kingdom foundations will lead our nations to develop, flourish, and be all that God intends.

A Transforming Story: The Bible is God's story. The Gospel—the fact and meaning of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ—is the focal point of the biblical narrative and of all human history, but it is not the whole story. The Bible's narrative begins with creation and ends as Christ returns for His church. It is more than just a narrative—it is a grand story of inestimable scope and depth. The whole biblical story is a transforming story—with the ability to transform individuals; to lift communities out of poverty; and to build nations that are free, just, and compassionate. It has the ability to disciple the nations. But if the church is not discipling the nations, the nations are discipling the church. Why is transformation not happening more today? Perhaps it is because we have not been telling the whole of God's story, and are not fully being the church that God intends.

Revival of the Reformation: The Reformation of the church in the 16th century responded to Renaissance humanism. Its principles were articulated in three simple

rallying cries: the theological rallying cry of "Christ alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone;" the economic rallying cry of "Work as hard as you can, save as much as you can, and give as much as you can;" and the political rallying cry of "All men are sinners." These principles can and should be revived. Their spheres are connected in a dynamic relationship. A revolution to change structure in society is not sufficient to bring freedom and prosperity. The transformation of people's minds and hearts is foundational for any lasting change in society. The church has a vital message to bring to this hurting world. It begins with "Christ and Him crucified," but it does not end there. We are to proclaim and live out vital biblical principles that will create a solid foundation upon which to build societies of freedom and opportunity.

Kingdom of God: The Kingdom of God is any realm where Christ the King reigns. Every local church should want to fully reflect His Kingdom and fully obey His desires. Understanding the nature of the Kingdom helps the church do this. Consider these characteristics of the Kingdom:

- The Kingdom is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus showed us what God is like, and also what it means to be fully human as God intended.
- The Kingdom is comprehensive and all-encompassing. The scope of Christ's redeeming work includes not only the souls of men, but also all our relationships and the environment in which we live.
- The Kingdom sanctifies the common. It gives dignity to the menial things of life.
- The Kingdom is open to all people—to all who will submit to Christ's reign.
- The Kingdom is both now and not yet. There is a present aspect of the Kingdom, as well as the fulfillment yet to come.
- The Kingdom of God is unshakeable and will be victorious. The kingdom of Satan will collapse and be destroyed.
- The Kingdom of God is on the offensive. The church is to be advancing against the works of the enemy.

Lifework: The biblical worldview understands that God is at work in the world building His Kingdom, and that, among other things, He calls us to participate in the building of His Kingdom through our work. One's lifework establishes one's place in God's unfolding story. The call of God to each believer has both a general and a particular nature. It is a call to Christ and His Kingdom for all believers, and it is a call for each believer to be an instrument of the Kingdom in the world. When we view our lifework as a calling from God, we have an opportunity to manifest the values of the Kingdom of God through our work into the institution and society that we are serving. As "salt" and "light," we are to infuse Kingdom culture into institutional settings. As Christians, we are to consciously see ourselves as shapers of the workplace and builders of nations. Three things are required to connect our work to the Kingdom of God: being motivated by Christ, using the methods of Christ, and having the mind of Christ. The life of the believer should be one of passion and not of apathy, of work and not of ease. There is a war going on for the hearts and souls of individuals, communities, and nations. Are we engaged in the battle?

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