

Living Godly Lives 1: The Biblical Worldview

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to begin a series of lessons on living godly lives, or how to live one's life in freedom from sin and its many snares that destroy us and our lives.
 - A. This is important because that is God's plan for the Christian.
 - i. Rom. 6:5-7 – "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order **that our body of sin might be done away with**, so that we would **no longer be slaves to sin**; ⁷ for he who **has died is freed from sin**."
 - ii. Rom. 6:11-14 – "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts**, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; **but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ **For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace**."
 - B. This is important because as God's children that is what is demanded of us (1 Pet. 1:14-16 – "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behavior**; ¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy.").
 - C. This is important because many struggle to live godly lives and make godly decisions and to be freed from the slavery of sin.
2. I want to begin this series by talking about one's worldview and how it relates to living a godly life.
 - A. Worldview defined: A set of presuppositions, principals, and values that are used to understand the world and respond to it.
 - B. A biblical worldview is required for us to correctly:
 - i. Know who we are and our purpose in life
 - ii. Interpret life's events (What is really happening?)
 - iii. Deal with our emotions (Should I be concerned, be angry, encouraged, confident, etc.?)
 - iv. Respond to the world around us, or make godly decisions (i.e., Should I act? What is the right action to take? Etc.)
 - C. Without the proper worldview, one's perception will be skewed resulting in the wrong interpretation of the world, the wrong feelings concerning the world, and the wrong response to the world (**or sin**).
3. So, let's talk about the proper worldview for the Christians and how it relates to living godly lives.

BODY:

I. Two worldviews: Naturalistic vs. Biblical:

- A. Note: To simplify matters, we can separate every worldview into these two categories.
- B. **Naturalistic** – *formed* from what is earthly, natural, from within man, by human reason/thought.
 1. General characteristics:
 - a. The fastest growing worldview, dominating college campuses, due to the freedom of thought and action is supposedly provides.
 - b. It is a fluid worldview, constantly changing and evolving, a moving target that is controlled by individual desires and agendas...which always means problems!
 - c. Includes all views that are not from God.
 2. A naturalistic worldview answers the questions of life from an earthly, human-centric standpoint.
 - a. Question: Where did we come from and what is our purpose in this world?
 - i. Our origin is of purposeless acts of nature, an irrational, unknowing creator.
 - ii. So, it claims no ultimate purpose in life but to seek out a personal meaning for ourselves that warrants our existence and coincides with our own personally determined and accepted morals and values.
 - b. Question: How are we to view life's problems/events?

- i. Because my happiness is my main goal, and that is achieved by what I determine life should be, it views all things, events, beliefs, people, etc., that go against what makes me feel happy and safe as a personal attack.
- ii. That is why young people are encouraged to be constantly filled with rage.
- iii. And, because YOU may be the source of disagreement, of ideas and actions that make them unhappy or feel unsafe, they feel justified in taking action against you personally by harming you and your property. Thus, sinful actions!
- c. Question: What governs our actions?
 - i. Personal desires, human reason, human wisdom, and more often than not, emotion.
 - ii. What governs the naturalist's actions is what works for them, what they believe is best for them, seeing there are no moral absolutes, no ultimate right or wrong, etc., except the right to find one's own happiness.
- d. In the end, of course, a naturalistic worldview results in narcissistic and selfish behavior, conflict, chaos, and survival of the fittest with the mighty imposing their will on the weak/er to force submission to whatever makes the stronger "happy."

C. **Biblical** – It is not *formed*, but *received* from God Himself in His word.

- 1. General characteristics:
 - a. Provides a stable, unified approach to life and its problems.
 - b. Based a singular, some might call narrow, view of life's morals, values, and purpose.
 - c. Helps us rise above ourselves, our desires, and our faults.
- 2. Because it is based upon the wisdom and knowledge of our eternal Creator, it provides proven and trustworthy answers to life's question. We are not left to hopelessly figure them out ourselves.
 - a. It answers the question of our origin and what our purpose in life is to be, both of which are focused upon God Himself.
 - b. It gives us the answers to life's problems, helping us make sense of why things are the way they are, which the naturalistic worldview simply cannot do.
 - c. It allows the Christian to evaluate life events and situations from an *eternal* perspective, producing a godly and rational reaction to even the worst of news.

II. The foundational principles of the biblical worldview:

- A. There is but one true God and Creator (Gen. 1:1 – "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.")
 - 1. This is the ultimate dividing line between the two worldviews.
 - 2. Until this is settled in one's mind, one cannot claim a biblical worldview and will have to deal with the consequences and chaos.
- B. People are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27 – "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.")
 - 1. Because God is spirit (John 4:24), we must see that true life and peace can only be achieved by focusing on the Spirit (Rom. 8:6-8 – "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.").
 - 2. It means we are not to be controlled by the natural, but are capable of rising above our carnal needs and desires to achieve higher, spiritual goals leading to eternal life.
- C. This world is broken by sin and is temporary (Gen. 3:14-19; 2 Pet. 3:9-11)
 - 1. Why is this foundational? Because we must know that the world is full of irreparable, **sin-caused imperfections**, that will be here until its end...until God destroys it with fire.
 - 2. Thus, most, if not all, of what the world focuses on is futile and misdirected.
 - a. Everything in our world was designed and created to decay, and we cannot stop that.
 - b. This world's problems are not truly *physical, political, economic, or environmental*, but spiritual and the result of sin.
 - c. Only when we understand this will we seek out true solutions from God!

- D. God has revealed complete, absolute truth (John 16:12-15).
 - 1. Jesus promised that all truth by which we are to live would be revealed through His apostles, and it was so. It exists independent of man and is not subject to man's approval or judgment.
 - 2. It is this **truth** that can make us **free!** (John 8:31-32 – "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."").
- E. Christ the Redeemer has come (1 Tim 1:15 – "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all."").
 - 1. God, our Creator, entered time and space in the form of a man to provide the answers for life, its purpose, problems, etc.!
 - 2. It means that God wants to get your **attention**, to get you to **notice** Him, to get you to **listen** to Him, to get you to **respond** to Him, and to get you to **benefit** from Him.
 - 3. It means that life cannot be lived without addressing this, and that how you respond to it has **eternal consequences!**

III. The Biblical worldview:

- A. The biblical worldview is centered on Jesus (Col. 1:16-17 – "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."").
 - 1. Jesus is the answer to where we came from and what our purpose in life truly is?
 - a. We come from God's creative and sustaining power manifested through Jesus.
 - i. **We are in debt to God in Christ for everything**—life, health, possessions, peace, happiness, etc.
 - ii. With such a debt to pay, we must realize the tremendous responsibility we have to make choices that please Him, to make godly choices.
 - b. Our purpose is found in that we were created not only by Him, but **for Him**.
 - i. Everything about life in this world surrounds Jesus—His will and glorification!
 - ii. Our life's true purpose, therefore, can only be found **in Jesus**, in glorifying Him.
 - 2. Jesus is the answer to how we are to view life's problems and events.
 - a. Because all things owe their existence to Jesus' creative and sustaining power, everything in this world is **dependent on Jesus and His will to allow it to continue**.
 - b. This must affect our view of this world's situations and events, seeing that no earthly power or the events/situations they create are more powerful than Jesus, and a life lived for Jesus!
 - 3. It answers the question of what is to govern our actions?
 - a. Because God in Christ holds all things together, our response to life must be tempered by faith, or trust, in God to bring victory to His people whether in life or death!
 - b. Because all things are created for Him, every thought and action must be filtered through whether it can be done "for Him." That is our purpose!
- B. The biblical worldview acknowledges God's greatness, power, and rule over all things (1 Chron. 29:10-13 – "So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. ¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name."").
 - 1. Like David's worldview, our view must:
 - a. Dominated by God's greatness, power, and glory, victory, and majesty, and that He alone is the source of riches, honor, power, and might, and strength in this world.
 - b. Realize God owns everything in heaven and on earth—**you, me, everything!** It's His!

- c. Trust in the fact that God “rules over all,” that He alone is in control!
- 2. Such a worldview will affect our approach to life! It tells me that:
 - a. I must look to God, not human wisdom, PC, etc. as the source of all that is important in this life, of all I truly need to live a meaningful life.
 - b. I must not cower to the world’s threats and demands, seeing God rules and the world cannot and will not escape God’s judgment in the end.
 - c. Nothing that any leader, nation, or person does in this world will overcome God’s purposes! God’s will for this world will be done and He and His people are victorious!
- C. The biblical worldview recognizes that fearing God and doing His will is life’s most important goal (Eccl. 12:13-14 – “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. ¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”).
 - 1. When pleasure, materialism, wanton immorality and perversion, and every other form of godlessness and human wisdom have been heard or put on display in violence, in protests, in riots in the streets, the only things that matters are to fear God and do His will!
 - a. That is our reason for being and the only means of experiencing real life!
 - b. For, again, this world is temporary and its view and actions will be judged.
 - 2. So, our goal must be to know God and His will (Jer. 9:23-24 – “Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.”)
 - 3. For, no **deed** done by **anyone, anywhere**, will escape God’s judgment.
 - a. **All** that is done on the earth, including every injustice, hidden deed, or agenda will be exposed and judged in the end.
 - b. God will right all wrongs and reward all who do His will.
 - c. So, all that Satan does in this world is His ultimately powerless (if we resist Him in Christ) and desperate attempts to spread the eternal sufferings of the condemnation he will receive upon all who will follow him.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. So, ask yourself how your worldview compares to the biblical worldview.
 - A. Do you live with confidence in the Lord as the creator, sustainer, Savior, ruler, and judge of this world, and that all that happens here will not escape His notice or His judgement?
 - B. Or are you driven by fear because of the events around you so that life has become a constant wave of uncertainty pushing you about like a boat without an anchor?
- 2. Without a biblical worldview and firm grasp of its meaning and implications, we are destined to think, feel, and act sinfully.
- 3. Only with a biblical worldview can we resist temptation and present to the world Christ and His salvation.
- 4. Will you come to Christ, will you listen to Him and give up this world for the wonders of the world to come by coming to Him in F,R,C,BP?