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# WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

PART ONE:  
*A Faith Worth Defending*

## INTRODUCTION

In the face of a culture which seems increasingly antagonistic toward the claims of Christ, the temptation to avoid the world and huddle behind the safety of our church walls is very real. But, this is not our calling. The Apostle Peter urged the first century church to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is found within them. Two thousand years later, that challenge is just as important as ever.

As we move through this study we will examine what God identifies as essentials in preparing to witness for Christ to those who do not share our basic worldview. We will also discover the seven pillars of a Biblical worldview which form the framework for how we view God, the world, and purpose in life.

### SESSION 1: UNDERSTANDING WORLDVIEWS

This session uses Colossians as a foundation for understanding how Christians can prepare themselves for presenting their faith outside the walls of the church.

### SESSION 2: PREPARATION FOR CONFRONTATION

This session focuses on various passages in Proverbs and emphasizes the value of wisdom in the believer's life. Too many Christians think one must have an exceptional intelligence to defend the faith—this is not the message of Solomon.

### SESSION 3: TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

This session focuses on Paul's engagements with the culture of his day. Believers are not called to hide in theological and cultural fortresses but rather to be prepared to engage the culture around them with the truths of God's Word.

### SESSION 4: BE READY!

This session focuses on various New Testament passages that stress the necessity of sharing our faith and the realities that accompany that calling. We don't have to be the best educated to face opposing worldviews but we do have to be faithful.

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\*Adapted from "Pillars of a Biblical Worldview," *FUSION* devotional magazine, Vol. 6, No.2, Randall House, 2009.

# SESSION ONE

# UNDERSTANDING WORLDVIEWS

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Extra pens and pencils
- White board or poster board
- Prepare a poster board or PowerPoint presentation for the Seven Pillars of a Biblical Worldview found at the end of this lesson. Reveal the contents of each pillar as they appear in each session.
- Bible concordance
- Copies of student handouts

## LESSON OBJECTIVE

This lesson uses Colossians as a foundation for understanding how Christians can prepare themselves for presenting their faith outside the walls of the church. Although these principles are elementary they are often either forgotten or overlooked.

## CONNECT

Direct the group to read over the items on the handout "Getting Back to Basics." Allow time for discussion. Ask: *How do you think this shift in emphasis from basic learning skills has affected our culture?* This is not a time to find fault in teachers but rather to discuss the importance of foundational knowledge. Ask: *Has the church been guilty at times of overlooking the basics of the Christian faith? What has been the effect of that?*

## CONSIDER

The Apostle Paul in the New Testament worked hard with the Colossian Christians (the people to whom he wrote the book of Colossians) to get them to understand the collision that would be a part of when their faith was tested in the marketplace of the world. Read the quote from the sidebar to the class.

While many ideas and religions can be classified as worldviews there are really only two basic worldviews. Call on someone to read Colossians 2:6-10 and then ask the group what they think those two basic worldviews are. Either we have a Biblical worldview or we are left with a view of the world that is basically humanistic. The passage we read from Colossians gives a clear picture of the two worldviews and their interaction with each other.

## A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- *The glue that holds this worldview together* – Colossians 1:27-28; 2:6-10 emphasizes it is Christ Himself Who provides the cohesion for a biblical worldview. Call on someone to read Colossians 1:17. It is in Him that we are complete.

One's worldview is the framework for interpreting and understanding all knowledge and experience. It is the basis for decision-making. It is how we view the world. Every aspect of life is shaped by this personal philosophy of life. A person that believes he is accountable to God is inclined to act differently from a person that believes there is no God.

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## Pillar 1: A Real and Knowable God

Is there a God? is answered in a resounding YES! He is a personal, spiritual being. Although far above and beyond our ability to comprehend, He is knowable and approachable. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, self-existent, eternal, holy, and good. He is accurately identified as Father, Son, and Spirit, yet remains one.

- *Not just facts* – Sound doctrine is important and throughout these sessions we will present seven pillars of a biblical worldview. It is important to remember these are not various views we should believe but rather one unified worldview rooted solely in God’s Word. While these doctrines are essential, we must remember that our faith is much more than a collection of facts. Colossians 2:6-7 stresses our first line of defense against the inroads of humanistic and unbiblical viewpoints is found in our continuing relationship with Christ. Ask the class to look at these verses again and identify words used to describe our relationship with Christ. Write these words on a white or poster board. These would include words like receive, walk, rooted, built up, established, etc...

Refer back to the handout “Getting Back to Basics” again. Pair off participants and have them take turns reading the verses concerning walking in Christ to each other. When they have finished, ask the group: *What is the point of these Scriptures?* It is so simple we often miss it; walk in Christ. Our personal walk with Christ cannot be overemphasized when it comes to facing the competing views and ideas of the world around us.

Reveal the first pillar on your poster board or PowerPoint. Remind participants the goal of this study is not to teach these truths in detail but rather to ensure we all agree on their truth and importance.

## A HUMANISTIC WORLDVIEW

A powerful and tragic illustration of what happens when we allow ourselves to be influenced by a humanistic worldview is found in the life of Old Testament Israelite King Saul as described in 1 Samuel 13. The Prophet Samuel instructed Saul to wait seven days for him to come and offer sacrifices as was proper for the priest of God. Have the group read 1 Samuel 13:8-14 and ask: *What did Saul do instead? How did he rationalize his actions?* Call attention to the handout, “The Way I See It.” Ask participants to write a paraphrase of Saul’s reasoning to Samuel from verses 11-12 and call on volunteers to share ways people do similar things today.

Various translations uses phrases like “I saw, I thought, I felt, and I said” to describe Saul’s rationalization for not obeying God. Ask: *What is common to all of those phrases?* Saul’s only defense was, “I.” This is the heart of a humanistic worldview. What do I think, feel, and say rather than what does God say? Lead the group to discuss ways Saul’s spirit tends to creep into what we as Christians call Bible study and what we believe.

Colossians 2:8 describes this Humanistic Worldview:

- *Meaningless Philosophy* – No matter how deep man’s thoughts may appear they are empty at best and dangerous at worst when not rooted in the mind of Christ. To complicate matters, there are almost as many competing philosophies as there are people.
- *Human Traditions* – Traditions are not bad in and of themselves. Ask participants to share some family or church traditions they cherish. Ask: *When do traditions become dangerous?* When traditions begin to set themselves up against God’s revealed truth there is a problem. The Humanistic Worldview sees man’s traditions as equally viable and to be respected regardless of how much they may violate God’s standards.
- *ABC’s of this World* – Colossians 2:8 also speaks of the basic principles of this



world. Some call these the ABC's of the world. This would include basic ideas of the world that are considered generally acceptable but are not so to God. Ask: *Can you think of some generally accepted ideas and practices in our culture that are contrary to God's revealed Word?*

It should be obvious to believers that conflicts with the views of this world are bound to happen. Perhaps that is why the Apostle Paul told Timothy all who seek to live for God will experience persecution (conflict) of some kind.

## COMMIT

Call attention again to the handout "The Way I See It." Invite participants to begin looking at their own life during the coming week. Encourage them to list in the appropriate column areas of their life they may need to submit to the Lordship of Christ and reevaluate. Remind them this is not an invitation to judge others but rather to look at one's self. Read Colossians 2:10 again before leading in a closing prayer.

SAMPLE

# SEVEN PILLARS OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

## PILLAR 1: A REAL AND KNOWABLE GOD

He is a personal, spiritual being. Although far above and beyond our ability to comprehend, He is knowable and approachable. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, self-existent, eternal, holy, and good. He is accurately identified as Father, Son, and Spirit, yet remains one.

## PILLAR 2: GOD'S WORD IS OUR AUTHORITY

The Bible is a uniquely authoritative book that has been transmitted by God through human writers in such a way that it is without error. It is accurate and reliable in all it asserts to be true. It sets moral boundaries and absolutes.

## PILLAR 3: GOD IS THE CREATOR

He created everything in the universe, including the universe. He accomplished this in six days by speaking all things into existence. Humans are the crown of His creation, being made in His image. We are not a cosmic freak of nature drifting aimlessly through time and space. We are created to honor and glorify Him. That is our purpose and we are accountable to Him. This answers the questions, "Who am I?" "Why am I here?"

## PILLAR 4: MAN IS BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

We are more than just flesh and bone. God breathed life into us and we became living beings with eternal souls. He imparted to us will, intellect, and emotion and equipped us to experience a personal relationship with Him. We will exist forever somewhere.

## PILLAR 5: MAN REBELLED AND DISOBEYED GOD

Sin brought death and destruction into the world. Nothing died before Adam, the first man, sinned. God warned Adam of the consequences of sin, but Adam fell to the temptation of Satan and willingly chose to disobey God's one rule. Everything in God's "very good" creation has been marred by sin.

## PILLAR 6: GOD JUDGES SIN AND THEREFORE MAN NEEDS A SAVIOR

Spiritual death occurred immediately as a result of Adam's sin and his relationship with God was broken. Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden and away from the Tree of Life, which brought about his eventual physical death. All of Adam's descendents inherited his sinful nature. Further evidence that God judges sin is seen in the global flood in the days of Noah and the confusion of languages at the tower of Babel. God will bring ultimate judgment on the entire world. This pillar addresses the questions of injustice in the world, and the existence of Hell. It also gives us significant insight about our world.

## PILLAR 7: GOD OFFERS SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS TO ALL WHO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

The incarnation, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's redemption and the only remedy to Adam's sin. God honors faithfulness and obedience to His Word. Those who take Him at His word enjoy the benefits. Those who reject His promises are left to remain separate from Him for eternity.

# GETTING BACK TO BASICS

**ENGLAND:** Primary-school curriculum makes the teaching of historical topics, like the Victorian period and World War II, non-compulsory, but dictates familiarity with blogging, podcasts, Wikipedia, and Twitter.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** A new curriculum targeted at Middle Schools has been designed to work toward eliminating obesity.

**FLORIDA:** Several school districts are modifying High School courses of study that once focused on Geography and Civics to cover the broader topics of global citizenship and the politics of global warming.

## ONLY TWO WORLDVIEWS:

Colossians 2:6-7

Colossians 2:8

**WALKING IN CHRIST** (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 5:16, 25; Ephesians 4:1; 5:8; Colossians 1:10; 1 John 1:7; 3 John 1:4)

# THE WAY I SEE IT

1 Samuel 13:11-12 (paraphrase) –

## A WORLDVIEW INVENTORY

Meaningless Philosophies	Human Traditions	Accepted Ideas
		