

WIDE ANGLE

FRAMING YOUR WORLDVIEW



RICK WARREN

CHARLES COLSON

Wide Angle: Framing Your Worldview
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Prison Fellowship
44180 Riverside Parkway
Landsdowne, VA 20176
www.pfm.org



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**MY WORLDVIEW
MATTERS**

Looking Ahead (10 Minutes)

- Welcome! Begin your time together by reading and discussing the Group Guidelines on page 124.
- Share with the group what you hope to get out of this study.
- Opening Prayer: Pray that God will help you be open to what he wants to teach you through this series.

Key Verse

Host Tip: Ask for a volunteer to read this verse aloud. If anyone has a different translation, ask him or her to read this as well to expand the group's understanding of the verse.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Summary

A worldview is simply the way we think the world works, and how we fit into it. Everyone has a worldview, though most people are not aware of it. Understanding these worldviews is vitally important, because they shape our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

- Everyone has a worldview.

- Your worldview is the way you think the world works, and how you fit into it.

- Worldviews answer four questions:
 - Where did I come from?

 - Why is the world such a mess?

 - Is there a solution?

 - What is my purpose?

Discovery Questions

1. What differences do worldviews make? Are these differences important?

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Additional Questions for Expanded Discussion

2. Now, having viewed the first Wide Angle discussion, what is your definition of worldview?

3. Based on your current thinking, how would you answer these four essential worldview questions?
 - a. Where did I come from?
 - b. Why is the world a mess?
 - c. Is there a solution?
 - d. What is my purpose?

Summary

Our worldviews will inevitably be shaped either by the media or by the Bible. Unfortunately, Christians have all too often neglected the command to love God with our minds, not just our hearts. This often is a result of having emphasized feeling over thinking. We need to learn to think biblically and to have the integrity to live out what the Bible teaches, since the Bible alone provides a true, livable worldview.

- We are to love God, not just with our hearts and souls, but also with our minds.
- The biblical worldview integrates all parts of life under God and allows us to live with integrity.
- Worldviews contradict each other and can't all be true; only the biblical worldview gives us a complete and true picture of the world as it really is.

Discovery Questions

1. How do you see those around you compartmentalizing their lives? How do you see yourself doing the same thing?

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Additional Questions for Expanded Discussion

2. Besides reading the Bible more, how can we begin to conform our minds to a biblical worldview?
3. Where do you see the conflict of worldviews around you?
4. What does “integrity” mean to you?

Summary

Worldviews have consequences, and false worldviews can be disastrous. The Bible speaks to all of life, and its teachings compete with false worldviews for our allegiance. Since only the biblical worldview accurately describes reality, we need to implement it to avoid disaster. Moreover, to do that, we need to be good stewards of our minds, learning to think biblically and to apply biblical truth to all areas of life.

- Ideas have consequences: “*For as [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he.*” (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV)
- The two great themes of the Bible are salvation and stewardship, which includes stewardship of the mind.
- “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

Discovery Questions

1. When we look at the world, in what ways do we cry out “mine,” when we should cry out “his”?

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Additional Questions for Expanded Discussion

2. How do the biblical worldview and the lordship of Christ play out in your daily life?

3. Chuck Colson makes a statement regarding our “responsibility to care for everything God has created and to see all of life through God’s eyes.” List ways in which you can adhere to these responsibilities.

Living on Purpose (10 Minutes)

Discipleship

Developing a biblical worldview means learning to see all of life through God's eyes. Using your current understanding of Scripture and worldview, take some time as a group to list the different areas of your life (work, family, recreation, etc.) and share some ideas together about how we should be thinking about these areas of life from a biblical perspective.

Work:

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Family:

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Recreation:

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Others:

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Prayer Direction (10 Minutes)

As you close the meeting:

- Thank God for giving us the Bible as a guidebook to tell us the way the world really works and how we should live in it.

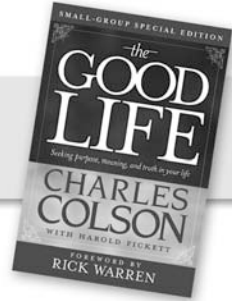
- Ask God to help you see the world the way he sees it, to show you where you need to change, and to give you the wisdom and courage to do so.

Putting It into Practice

Rick and Chuck told us that Christianity is a worldview, one that should shape the way we think about the world, make decisions, and take action. At the same time, false worldviews are influencing the way we look at the world and the way we live. During this week, pay attention to the variety of messages you are getting about worldviews and the four worldview questions. Using your knowledge of the Bible, think of how you should respond. Come prepared to share your thoughts at our next meeting.

Diving Deeper

Read the following chapters of *The Good Life*, reflect on the Scripture verses listed, and answer the questions.



Chapter 1: The Unavoidable Question

³⁷Jesus answered, “. . . For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” (John 18:37–38 ESV)

1. Think of the people who have influenced your worldview. How do you think those who have influenced your worldview would answer Pilate’s question?

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2. How do you define truth?

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Chapter 2: A Shattered Life

And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice . . . ” (1 Samuel 15:22 ESV)

Many people give little thought to God, but when problems arise, they suddenly want to go to God for help.

1. When you are in trouble, what are some of the ways you turn to “burnt offerings and sacrifices” to get right with God?

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Chapter 3: The Great Paradoxes

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39 ESV)

“Whoever dies with the most toys wins.” —Anonymous

1. Why are we so inclined to seek happiness by gaining things for ourselves?

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2. What is your response to Jesus' assertion about "losing" our lives?

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Chapter 4: A Nice Party with a Lot of People

*I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself."
But behold, this also was vanity. (Ecclesiastes 2:1 ESV)*

Vanity and feeding on the wind: that was the conclusion Solomon reached after a life of revelry, self-indulgence, and preeminent political power.

1. Why is it so hard for us to see that this way gives no real fulfillment in life?

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Chapter 5: Shopping for the Holy Grail

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

(Luke 12:15 ESV)

Advertising and pop culture tempt us with pleasure-seeking pitfalls such as covetousness.

1. What stimulates covetousness?

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2. Why did Jesus warn us about it?

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3. How can you respond to the warning Jesus gave?

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Notes