

How did we get here?

A – BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE

1. Old Testament Foundations:
2. Origins in Judea:
3. Early Persecution:
4. Legalization and Imperial Support:
5. Medieval Christianity:
6. Protestant Reformation (16th–19th Century)
7. Biblical Roots of Early North America
8. Modern Era: (Fast forward to today)
9. How Christianity shaped history and continues to influence global society:
 - a. Spiritual Influence
 - b. Moral Framework
 - c. Education and Literacy
 - d. Health and Care
 - e. Advocacy for Justice
 - f. Political and Legal Systems
 - g. Law and Justice:
 - h. Art, Music, and Culture

B – WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW (AND WHY DOES IT MATTER)

1. We have changed the way we think!
2. What we believe to be true about the world is called a Worldview.
3. We have many different Worldviews that impact us today. As I define them, you will begin to recognize some familiar themes.
 - a. Secular Humanism:
 - b. Postmodernism:
 - c. Progressivism:
 - d. Biblical Christianity:
4. Questions of life: (Book: *Making Sense of your World* - Authors: Gary W. Phillips, William E. Brown, John Stonestreet)
 - a. Origins: Where did everything come from? Is there a God?
 - b. Meaning: Why is there something rather than nothing? What is the meaning of life? What is our purpose?
 - c. Morality: Is there right and wrong? Who decides? Why does it seem that the world is not as it should be?

- d. Destiny: What happens after we die? Where is history going?
- e. Identity: What is a human being? Who am I? Why am I here? How do I fit?
- 5. Why has our Worldview changed so quickly?
 - a. Media and Entertainment Influence
 - b. Breakdown of the Family
 - c. Cultural Pressure and Fear of Offense
 - c. Loss of Church Influence
 - d. Desire for Autonomy

C – BELIEFS IN A BLENDER ... SYNCRETISM

- 1. Our beliefs are in a state of confusion!
- 2. American Worldwide Inventory Survey 2023 (George Barna):
 - a. 2 thirds of Americans would call themselves “Christian”
 - b. 40% affirm a belief in God, as described in the Bible.
 - c. 4% will govern their behavior to align with biblical truth.
 - e. 92% of American adults embrace a syncretistic worldview.
 - i. Syncretism is the blending of Biblical Christianity with other beliefs, philosophies, or practices, and this distorts or replaces God’s truth.

D – HOLDING TO A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- 1. What exactly is a “Biblical Worldview” (remember the 4%)?
- 2. Here are the Cornerstones of a Biblical Worldview as defined by the *Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University*:
- 3. #1: A Biblically Orthodox understanding of God’s existence and nature
- 4. #2: Acknowledgement of being a sinner in need of a Savior
- 5. #3: Jesus is the only way to salvation
- 6. #4: The Bible is the true and reliable word of God, relevant for today
- 7. #5: Absolute moral truth exists; God is the basis of all truth
- 8. #6: Life’s purpose is to know, love, and serve God with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul
- 9. #7: Success is defined by consistent obedience to God in thoughts, words, and actions.

E – MOVING FORWARD!

- 1. The first question you and I have to answer is this:

- a. Have we begun to dilute God's truth in our hearts by blending in truth claims from the culture around us? Do we KNOW truth?
2. Secondly:
 - a. We saw that so many claim to be "Christian", and yet do not walk according to the requirements of God's Word, either through ignorance or deliberate disobedience.
 - b. Are we intimately familiar with God's Word?
 - c. Do we use it to determine how we ought to live?
 - d. Do we read and study it, seeking to understand how it is that God wants us to live out our lives in a manner that will honor Him?
3. The last question is this:
 - a. You see, the passage continues: **39 A second (commandment) is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'** **40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."**
 - b. We are to implement and walk out God's principles for our lives in a way that will reflect His Lordship in our lives, **through our love for those around us**, our families, and our communities.
4. Where is God calling us to make a difference?
 - a. "What is good that we are called to preserve?"
 - b. "What is evil that we need to stand against?"
 - c. "What is missing that we can contribute to?"
 - d. "What is broken that we can restore?"