

■ EDUCATION

How Education Affects Your Worldview

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Have you ever thought of how we develop a worldview? And, have you ever thought of how much time is needed to establish a strong worldview?

To have a worldview is to have a lens through which we see the world at large. It acts like a filter - for most of the time we are unaware of these filters - through which we frame our world. It is the ultimate motivator of our lives; it is the way through which we understand and make sense of the world around us.

"For as he [man] thinks within himself, so he is" (Proverbs 23:7) For the most part, our culture is shaped by distorted worldviews and we make our judgements by our worldviews. Governments determine their decisions based on a particular worldview. When we go along with worldviews shaped by human philosophies and reasonings, we have no basis for morality or stability; stability is only provided by the ways of God, which are absolute. God wants us to see the world as He intended for it to be; God gave us the framed truth to live in this world.

Everybody has a worldview, which can either be biblical or humanistic. In a humanistic worldview men and women decide for themselves what is best for mankind. Every culture is shaped by the actions of the community, or society. We see the consequences of the actions we take daily. Our one-sided ideas of what is good for mankind is catching up with us, specifically with regards to the morality and safety in our nation and the education system. It is through the education we provide (and receive) that a worldview is established.

We place our children in school for 12 years, during which time their personal worldview is shaped, in many instances by a humanistic worldview. Children do not learn to govern themselves, but to be governed by somebody looking over their shoulders.

"As we look at the final reality of humanism taught in our schools and which provides much of the framework of the thinking and the writing of our day - we find that is thought of as material or energy. It is impersonal, totally neutral to any value system or any interest in man as man. It has existed in some form forever and has its present configuration by pure chance. This view of final reality offers no absolute value system, no fixed basis for law, and no basis for viewing man as unique and important in the eyes of a loving Creator.

In a Biblical worldview, the final reality is the infinite personal God who truly is there objectively whether we think He is there or not. He is the Creator of everything else. We must never forget that one of the distinguishing marks of the Judeo-Christian God is that not everything is the same to Him. He as a character, and some things agree with His character and some things offers conflict with that character. Therefore, there are absolutes, right and wrongs in the world" (Francis Schaeffer, 1982, *The Secular Humanist Word view versus The Christian World View*)

The answer to the dilemmas of this world is self-government; self-government is synonymous with self-control. A self-governed individual is someone who can regulate his attitudes and actions without the need for external coercion. "Those who cannot govern themselves cannot govern others" (1 Timothy 3:5). A self-governed individual obeys the law of God from **the heart**, while someone who lacks self-control must **be forced** to obey. Those who are not self-governed need to be controlled by an **external governor**. This is why Scripture tells us "that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane,

for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine" (1 Tim.1: 9-10).

An ungoverned citizen reverts to crime to satisfy his uncontrolled desires. He might steal, vandalize, murder, or rape. His failure to govern himself means that others must govern him (taught for 12 years in school), protecting the larger society from his destructiveness and rebellion. Essentially men fail in self-government because they are in rebellion against God... a society without a proper perspective of God and no Biblical worldview.

Only the renewing work of the Holy Spirit can affect such a change. We should not expect any long-term change in society without a radical change in the belief pattern of the community. Societal change without personal restoration is a myth and impossibility. The Bible is the only handbook to change the worldview of people in a positive way. Any law without the Bible leads to anarchy.

Family, church and civil government reflects the self-government of people, whether good or bad. The essence of this article is to call upon parents and churches to take an effort to establish a strong biblical worldview in their families and churches. Parents are the sovereign rulers in the family. Authority has been delegated to parents from God, and parents ought to reflect the image of God as "our Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). God instigated the family - it is His design. The family is the building block of civilization. Family government should be our first government. We need to constantly remind ourselves that before the Church family government had already been established (Genesis 2:21-25), and before there was a State the family existed (Genesis 4:1-2).

- Parents are to feed their children the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Psalm 78:1-8).
- Parents should not exasperate and provoking their children (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).

- Parents should constantly be teaching the sacred writings which are able to give their children wisdom, leading to salvation through faith which is Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).
- Parents should provide their children with Godly discipline to deliver their souls from Sheol (Proverbs 23:14).

Obedience brings life (continuity and inheritance), while disobedience brings death (discontinuity and disinheritance). Jesus was faithful to His Father, and in the same way children gain an inheritance through faithfulness: "Honour your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6: 1-3).

"When the moral backbone of a nation is removed, a nation will surely collapse. The public schools have abandoned the absolute moral values and biblical morality and have replaced them with the religion of humanism, where man is the measure of all things and values are determined by the individual. In America, 1982 the top discipline offenses had become rape, robbery, assault, burglary, drug abuse, abortion and sexual diseases. (It is nothing different in South Africa) Violence is the order of the day. Will your child be the next victim?" (Christopher Klicka, 1995, *The Right Choice*).

The solution is for parents to be intentional about training their children in a strong biblical worldview, and for churches to train parents to **establish** a strong worldview; to teach the truth about who God is and how we ought to live. In some instances, the only way parents can truly bring change is to bring their children home for the critical years of their education.

Dynamis is a ministry to support and inform families and home educators. The goal is to serve and equip parents to take up their responsibility and authority for their child's education.
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