

# WORLDVIEW

## *Question # 4* *What Is Our Purpose On Earth?*

Today we conclude our exploration of the concept of a worldview. What a “worldview” is, it’s facets, why we all have one, why we should intentionally reflect on ours, and what the Four Ultimate Questions are which we must answer when creating our personal worldview. The questions are:

- 1. ORIGIN** Where do we come from, and who are we? This is the CREATION piece.
- 2. PROBLEM** What has gone wrong-Why all the evil and suffering? This is THE FALL.
- 3. SOLUTION** Is there an answer to our dilemma? The answer is REDEMPTION.
- 4. PURPOSE** Why are we here, and can we make things better? This is the VISION.

### ***THE RESTORATION HARDWARE***

First, let me thank two brilliant authors and simultaneously recommend two of their seminal works: *A Season of Life* by Jeffrey Marx, a story of a life changed and focused on restoration, and *How Now Shall We Live* by Chuck Colson, a book that brings an understanding of worldview to life. My training and call to impart this information is credited to Chuck Colson’s worldview mentoring efforts in the Centurions Program.

Today we’ll go often to the Manufacturer’s Manual in contemplating this fourth component in a *biblical* worldview.

#### **What is God’s role?**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

“Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can’t, the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory. He was before all else began, and it is his power that holds everything together. It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to him—all things in heaven and on earth—for Christ’s death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood.” Colossians 1:16,17,20

“For see, I am creating new heavens and a new earth—so wonderful that no one will even think about the old ones anymore.” Isaiah 65:17

“Then I saw a new earth (with no oceans) and a new sky, for the present earth and sky had disappeared. And I, John, saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven.... And the one sitting on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new!” Revelations 21:1, 2, 5a

### **In whose image are we made?**

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to the Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:26,27

**DISCUSSION: If we are made in His image, what should we do? What’s our purpose?**

### ***God wants us to connect***

“And the Lord God said, ‘It isn’t good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs.’” Genesis 2:18

“‘This is it!’ Adam exclaimed. ‘She is part of my own bone and flesh! Her name is *woman* because she was taken out of a man.’ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that the two become one person. Now although the man and his wife were both naked, neither of them was embarrassed or ashamed.” Genesis 2:24

### **Our job description (which predates The Fall of man)**

“And God blessed them and told them, “Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; you are masters of the fish and the birds and all the animals.” Genesis 1:28

“The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden as its gardener, to tend and care for it.” Genesis 2:15

### **We are stewards.**

“The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is His!” Psalm 24:1

### **God’s purpose**

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren?” Romans 8:28-29

Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ: and I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the real life I now have within this body is a result of my trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude (i.e., humility) in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:3-5

### **What to do with problems, trouble, trials and suffering?**

“Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” James 1:2-4

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady. Then, when that happens, we are able to hold our heads high no matter what happens and know that all is well, for we know how dearly God loves us, and we feel this warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Romans 5:3-5

### **Living sacrifices**

“And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy—the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.” Romans 12:1-2

“It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. For you are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do the good works which He prepared in advance for you to do.” Ephesians 2:10

“O Israel, listen: Jehovah is our God, Jehovah alone. You must love him with all your heart, soul, and might. And you must think constantly about these commandments I am giving you today. You must teach them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk, at bedtime and the first thing in the morning.”  
Deuteronomy 6:4-7

### **The Great Commandment**

“And He (Jesus) said to him, ‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’” Matthew 22:37-40

### **Summary of all ethics: The Golden Rule**

“Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the teaching of the laws of Moses in a nutshell.” Matthew 7:12

### **Responding to evil: Love on, don’t fight back**

“Love, bless, pray, turn the other cheek, give, lend, expect no return, be merciful, do not judge or condemn, but do pardon.” Luke 6:27-38

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

### **No worries**

Jesus: “So my counsel is: Don’t worry about things—food, drink, and clothes, what to eat and wear. So don’t worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” Matthew 6:25,32-33

### **Worthless, priceless**

Paul: “Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.” Philippians 3:8,14

### **Riches**

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value, and are safe from thieves. If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too.” Matthew 6:19-21

### **“May I see your papers?”**

“But our homeland (citizenship) is in heaven where our Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from there.” Philippians 3:20

### **Influential salt, enlightening vision**

“You are the world’s seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavor, what will happen to the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the world’s light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see.

Don't hide your light. Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see to that they will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:13-16

### **Walking the talk**

"The Christian who is pure and without fault, from God the Father's point of view, is the one who takes care of orphans and widows, and who remains true to the Lord—not soiled and dirtied by his contacts with the world." James 1:27

### **The Great Commission**

Jesus: "Therefore, go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Matthew 28:19-20

### **"Your mission, should you choose to accept it"**

"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell other. We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

### **The Great Commission and the Cultural Commission**

God's original command to human beings was to reflect His divine image by being creators ourselves who would *multiply and exercise dominion* over all of creation. This was our intended purpose before sin entered the world. With the Fall of man came separation from God and the additional purpose of the Great Commission. Thus, after being reconciled to God, forgiven for our sinful rebellion, by the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ we now become His ambassadors, spreading the good news (Gospel) of our healed spiritual relationship to God, and seeking to *create a cultural environment that reflects God's love and justice*, so that more people may enter into an eternal relationship with Him.

To see how the two work in tandem, along with the great command to love God and to love others just as we love ourselves, we can look at the building block of civilization -- the family. Parents who know and love Christ as their Lord will shape a culture in their home that will add to the likelihood that children will be blessed and find their own relationships with God. Faith shapes behavior, and shaping the culture of behavior encourages faith. Thus we see the importance of marriage, family, parenting and the

shaping of culture to *respect God's design* of sexual bonding, procreation, childrearing and work, which shapes our life now to God's glory.

### **Getting back to the Garden**

“No, he (God) has told you what he wants, and this is all it is: to be fair and just and merciful, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Remember C.S. Lewis' quote: “If we find a desire deep within us that cannot be satisfied, then we were made for another world.”

### **“We're just a-passin' through.”**

We are *sojourners* here on earth. We belong to the Kingdom of God, but we are *exiles* in a temporal, imperfect, fallen world that for a while is deceived by Satan and largely rejects the solution, salvation and shalom of Jesus Christ. We are instructed not to conform to this society's ways of thinking or behaving, but instead to seek the kingdom of heaven first, and to concern ourselves with the needs of others, entrusting our own needs to God's care.

An incomplete understanding of this exile status could lead us to be “*so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use.*” Christians are to be both. Christians are to be most humble and most hopeful, not proud or condemning. We are to be united to each other in love, strong in facing persecution, but never isolated in self-interest. We're not to be “lone-rangers;” we're built to need each other.

We are called to honor and care for people, engage the culture, and uplift the civic life of this world. *Culture* includes marriage, family, career, neighborhood, service, philanthropy, government, law, education, economics, science, medicine, environment, art, entertainment, sports, etc. Loving our neighbor would include rescue, relief, intervention, prevention and invention. This supernatural love faces reality and is based on Truth and kindness, justice and mercy, responsibility and grace.

So, as exiles in this world, created for an eternal existence in another heavenly world, how should we try to improve this world?

### **Dateline Jerusalem, 605 B.C.**

#### **God's prophet Daniel and Jews captured, exiled in Babylon.**

“The Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, sends this message to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ‘Build homes and plan to stay; plant vineyards, for you will be there many years. Marry and have children, and then find mates for them, and have many grandchildren. Multiply! Don't dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of Babylon. Pray for her, for if Babylon has peace, so will you.’” Jeremiah 29:4-7

God's man Nehemiah, cupbearer to Babylon's king, asked about his countrymen back in Jerusalem. He wept sorrowfully for them, sought their welfare, prayed for God to give him a plan to help them, and encouraged them to not fear. Nehemiah united them family-by-family to work toward a common vision. He fixed unjust usury laws, set and met high ethical standards, and credited his success to God.

Examples of others who deflected to God all the applause for their accomplishments include Esther, Daniel, Joseph, the apostle Paul, William Wilberforce, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Dr. Martin Luther King, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and many more.

***Harvard Business Review* documented the business approach and worldview of Dennis Bakke, former CEO of 40,000-employee international energy giant AES.**

Bakke said, "Jesus Christ is the embodiment of Love and Truth, in perfect balance. We are to be his agents, ambassadors, representing this balance and working to bring human relationships, community, society and civilization into the fruitful and peaceful condition God intended. *Aim to Restore the Garden.*" **Align with God's design, or sustain the pain of rebelling against it.**

God is a triune God, a God of relationship. He made us for relationship with Him. He designed us for relationship with one another. Broken relationship with Him is the source of broken relationships among families and mankind. Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord is the relationship reconciliation that allows and fuels all purposes of restoration...among persons, relationships, and civilization. God is good. His will is good. His design is good, and our good is served when we follow his design.

### ***Does your worldview begin with you...or with God?***

Jesus declared, "I am the way, the Truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." John 14:6

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him." John 3:16,17

His Deal

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