



PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AT HILLCREST

By Stephen Allen, Head of School

How Do You Look at the World? What is a Worldview?

Are you familiar with the term “worldview”? If you think you don’t have a worldview, think again. Whatever led you to think you don’t have a worldview is derived from your sum of experiences and the ways you look at life that led you to that conclusion – your worldview! The online source dictionary.com gives two definitions for the word. They are (1) the overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world and (2) a collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group. The origin of the word, dating from about 1855-1860, is the German word “weltanschauung”, meaning a comprehensive conception or image of the universe and of humanity’s relation to it”. (dictionary.com)

I have some personal regrets about the shaping of my personal worldview. I wish I had thought more about it in my younger days. It would have made a significant difference in my life as a husband, a father, an employee, and as a member of my church and community. You see, your worldview affects all that you do – whether directly or indirectly. Had I given it more serious attention, some of my own life regrets perhaps would not exist.

The bottom line issue regarding worldview is answering the basic question “What is truth?” In the New Testament, Pilate asked Jesus the question “So You are a king?” After hearing Jesus’ response, Pilate asked “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Our world continues to answer that question today. Worldview does not mean ignorance of other views. It does imply an understanding of the how and why related to the particular way for which you view the world. Think of all of the things that contribute to the way you look at the world – religious beliefs, books read, parents, friends, experiences in the workplace, input from spouse and others – just to name a few.

Read the next question and before reading on, consider your answer.

Why did Jesus come to the world? Stop and think of an answer.

Now, how does it line up with the very answer Jesus gave in John 18:37? Check it out.

“You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (NAS) So, Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. Was that concept a part of your previously formulated answer. No doubt your answer contained other responses that also have a high degree of correctness – to heal, to rescue the captive, to die on the cross for my sins – as a few examples. When we see and seek Jesus as the source of all truth, our lives are changed.

As a Christian school, our mission statement is...

Hillcrest Christian School exists to serve the Christian community by providing high quality Christian education and training for the development of well-rounded students who will impact this world for the Lord Jesus Christ through Biblical thought and action.

To best accomplish this mission, a partnership between parents and school employees is required. As your household and our school have signed up for this partnership, consider that our common beliefs help hold that partnership together. To what are we agreeing to agree? Refer back to our school’s Statement of Faith for statements of spiritual agreement. Consider the unification of thought that comes from the Holy Spirit’s ministry of conviction, direction, and encouragement. Consider the unification of thought as we rely upon the same Word of God as expressed through our Bible.

Consider that the world today loves to confuse the issue of worldview with a rampant promotion that there is no one set of beliefs that is truth. Everything is relative. Those who promote this often state that there are no absolutes, no universal truth rooted in God. Period. Wait a minute! Tilt! They just denied their own values of no absolutes.

Consider the warning of the Bible in this regard. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.” (II Timothy 4:3)

I encourage you to proactively, even aggressively labor to shape and understand your worldview. If you don’t attempt to shape it, you will be more prone to a random shaping by the influences in the world that will attempt to shape your worldview. There are many sources today to help Christians understand this

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topic. Here are a few of my favorite sources on the subject.

The Bible

Are you reading it regularly? John 17:17 states it as succinctly as anywhere. “Sanctify them in the truth. Thy Word is truth.” Take a moment to read Psalm 1. Could you be accused of being the “blessed” man of the second verse that states “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”? Look over the entire 175 verses of Psalm 119 that helps us to understand that the Bible provides all that we need to know in terms of life principles. I love reading books. A pastor once remarked that reading other books keeps you out of The Book. I try to combine my reading of good books with a balance of daily reading of His Word – regularly, daily. In order to identify when something is not truthful, your best strategy is to delve into the truth – fully. To illustrate the point, officials in the US Treasury Department are given extensive training to identify counterfeit currency by focusing on identifying the real thing – rather than studying all of the possible types of illegal currency that exist. When you know the real thing, what is not real becomes obvious.

Blah, Blah, Blah

This book by Bayard Taylor will no doubt be referenced frequently at our next Partnering with Parents seminar – held on Tuesday, May 27. Mr. Taylor will be our guest speaker that day. Join us as we look at “Making Sense of the World’s Spiritual Chatter” (book subtitle). Come and find out the humorous story of how Bayard came up with the title of his book and much more. This book is published by Bethany House Publishers (2006).

Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity

Here are some quotes from the promotional description on the cover of the book. “In *Total Truth*, Nancy Percy offers some razor sharp analysis of the split between public and private, fact and feelings. She reveals the strategies of secularist gatekeepers who use this division to banish Biblical principles from the cultural mainstream, stripping Christianity of its power to challenge and redeem the whole of culture. . . . She walks readers through practical, hands-on steps for developing a full-orbed

Christian worldview.” This book was published by Crossway Books in 2004.

The Truth Project

This DVD series, provided through Focus on the Family, is an excellent source for shaping your worldview as a Christian. The Truth Project takes you through thirteen one hour sessions. The sessions answer very basic questions. What is truth? Who is man? Who is God? What is true in relationship to science, history, sociology, the church, the law, labor, and the community? This program is the single best source that I have seen. It is presented in a compelling, relevant, and appealing way. If you have a chance to participate in a Truth Project group, I highly recommend it! Watch for opportunities to join a Truth Project group in months to come.

Searching is something we all do throughout our lives – searching for various reasons and for various things. Is developing a better understanding of your worldview or actually considering how you should change your worldview something that would be worthy of your searching? As C.S. Lewis stated, “A man can’t be always defending the truth; there must be a time for him to feed on it.”

I have given you a just few resources on the topic of worldviews. When I did a search on Amazon.com with the topic “worldview” there were 51,905 resources. There were less, only 4,110 results, when I narrowed the search to Christian worldview. Speaking of searching online, ponder the following verses from His Word.

Is. 55:6 – “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.”

Jeremiah 29:13 – “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

James 1:5 – “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Aren’t you glad that when you seek Him and His Word to find direction for your life, though there may be a waiting period, you don’t get the “No results found” as you do on Internet search engines. Happy searching!



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