

Priorities in the Christian Life

A Christian Worldview

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” This signature sound bite effectively calls to mind a prominent college-level scholarship foundation.

Most, if not all, worldviews would embrace this generally accepted aphorism. However, a great divergence of opinion exists in describing what this waste might involve, how extensive it is or can be, how best to prevent this kind of mental resource loss, and what might be the best methods of renewing a damaged or neglected mind.

Well, the Bible makes it clear, the the unredeemed mind of man is already at a loss, not repairable from a human standpoint. It is fundamentally messed up. Little is said about the value of the mind of lost man

In fact

New Testament words that describe the ruin of man’s intellectual capacity.

1. Rom 1:28 “debased”
2. 2 Cor 3:14 “hardened”
3. 2 Cor 4:4 “blinded”
4. Eph 4:17 “futility”
5. Eph 4:18 “darkened”
6. Col 1:21 “hostile”
7. Col 2:4 “deluded”
8. Col 2:8 “deceived”
9. Col 2:18 “sensuous”
10. 1 Tim 6:5 “depraved”

11. 2 Tim 3:8 “corrupted” 12. Titus 1:15 “defiled”

As a result of this mental mayhem, people are “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim 3:7), and some even “have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge” (Rom 10:2). This represents the most tragic expression of a wasted mind.

Thus the human mind was wasted by sin. Man’s mind was so debilitated that fellowship with God proved no longer humanly possible, and the ability to see and understand life from God’s perspective vanished. The human race was now estranged from its God and Creator.

As a result, God’s original two created human beings, and every one of their offspring, experienced a brutal reversal in their relationship with God and His world.

1. They no longer would concern themselves with thoughts of God, but with the thinking of men (Ps 53:1; Rom 1:25).
2. They no longer would have spiritual sight, but were blinded by Satan to the glory of God (2 Cor 4:4).
3. They would no longer be wise but foolish (Ps 14:1; Titus 3:3).
4. They would no longer be alive to God, but rather were dead in their sins (Rom 8:5-11).
5. They no longer would set their affections on the things above, but on the things of earth (Col 3:2).
6. They would no longer walk in light, but rather in darkness (John 12:35-36, 46).
7. They no longer would possess eternal life, but rather faced spiritual death—i.e., eternal separation from God (2 Thess 1:9).
8. They would no longer live in the realm of the Spirit, but rather in the flesh (Rom 8:1-5).

But the mind is exactly where all the battles take place. Before any action occurs, it first occurs in the mind.

Physiologically speaking, the brain is central to human existence and identity. The human race is uniquely set apart from all other aspects of creation by being created in the image of God and by the capacity to think profoundly and then live wisely. Who could imagine that the three-pound human brain—comprising one hundred billion neurons and that handles ten thousand thoughts daily, regulates over 103,000 heartbeats every twenty-four hours, coordinates over 23,000 breaths a day, and controls over six hundred muscles—would also play such a central role in determining the nature and value of our lives?

Yet this is exactly what Scripture teaches in Romans 8:5: “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.”

Proverbs 27:19 establishes a basic axiom relating to the individual character and mind of a human being.

As in water face reflects face,
so the heart of man reflects the man.

Thus, who Adam and Eve were to become would depend in some measure on how they thought.

This basic idea also appears in **Proverbs 23:7**, “For as he thinks within himself, so he is” (NASB).

Jesus used this truism in **Matthew 15:18-19** to illustrate that man sins, not because of what he eats physically, but because of what he digests intellectually.

17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.

A person who thinks righteously will tend to act righteously, and conversely a person who thinks sinfully will act sinfully as a habit. Both the factual and ethical dimensions of one's thought life greatly determine one's behavior. This same principle is generally recognized in the cultural proverb:

Sow a thought, reap an act.

Sow an act, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

One becomes intellectually and spiritually what he/she thinks.

So, unquestionably, the mind is a terrible thing to waste because to waste a mind is to waste a person.

SO we can say that the fundamental idea that a human mind that 1) is redemptively focused on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Rom 8:5-8) plus being renewed regularly by Scripture (Rom 12:2) and 2) is then receiving a quality education (formal or informal) from the perspective of a Christian worldview will be the mind that achieves the greatest gains and experiences the least waste (Ps 119:97-104). While the foundation's classic slogan, mentioned above, embraces the intellectual side of life only, a Christian worldview considers both the intellectual and spiritual

aspects of humanity as inseparably and integrally connected from the beginning.

When a person enters into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, he/she becomes “a new creation” (2 Cor 5:17) who sings “a new song” (Ps 98:1).

But that does not mean that everything becomes new in the sense of perfection in one’s current walk. The mind acquires a new way to think and a new capacity to clean up old ways of thinking. Unquestionably, God is in the business of mind renewal for Christians.

- “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind . . .” (Rom 12:2).
- “. . . and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds” (Eph 4:23).

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- “. . . and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (Col 3:10).

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The Bible says to “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Col 3:2).

Paul put this concept in military terms: “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Cor 10:5).

How does one do this? Scripture is the mind of God. Not all of His mind, to be sure, but all that God cared to give believers. To think like God, one must think like Scripture. That’s why Paul encouraged the Colossians to let the word of Christ richly dwell within them (Col 3:16).

Harry Blamires, an Englishman with extraordinary understanding about the Christian mind, puts this quite well:

To think christianly is to think in terms of Revelation. For the secularist, God and theology are the playthings of the mind. For the Christian, God is real, and Christian theology describes His truth revealed to us. For the secular mind, religion is essentially a matter of theory: for the Christian mind, Christianity is a matter of acts and facts. The acts and facts which are the basis of our faith are recorded in the Bible.

A commendable approach is that of J. Gresham Machen, one of conservative Christianity's finest minds in his day (1881-1937): "Every Christian must think about God; every Christian to some degree must be a theologian. (Think Biblically Staff of Masters Seminary

With that stated, What could we consider to be the Foundational stones for a Christian Worldview.

What are absolutes upon which we build the view.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him,

"I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus makes a profound and inexhaustible statement in this one verse that gives for us, I believe, the foundation stones to our Biblical Worldview.

Jesus is the Way = Salvation

Jesus is the Truth = Revelation

Jesus is the Life = Creation

Now there are a hundred ways you approach this topic about a Christian Worldview. But I believe that out of these 3 absolutes can come the understanding of all other areas of consideration.

whether you are thinking of how a Christian should view:

Human Relations, Family, Marriage, Children, Discipline, Church, Life, Death, Job, Career, School, College, Morality, Politics, Evolution, Creation, Decisions, plans, Medical, Abortion, Homosexuality, Anthropology, Astronomy, Biology, Communism, Environmentalism, Fundamentalism, Geology, Narcism, Socialism, Pacifism, Pragmatism, and PRIORITIES

We will consider these 3 absolutes that Jesus gave in reverse order

- 1. Jesus is the Life**
- 2. Jesus is the Truth**
- 3. Jesus is the Way**

**First not that Jesus says "I AM" Meaning He is GOD
God is the Source of our Worldview**

- 1. Jesus is the Life**

God is the Creator, Sustainer and Source of all Life

Gen 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3-4

³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life,

Col 1:16-17

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Isa 45:18

For thus says the Lord,
Who created the heavens,
Who is God,
Who formed the earth and made it,
Who has established it,
Who did not create it in vain,
Who formed it to be inhabited:

Examples of what this affects

1. Evolution vs. Creation

2.

Ken Ham

It's a battle between two different worldviews. Students who are committed to the starting point that there is a Creator are going to interpret the evidence in a different manner than their evolutionary or atheistic professors. It's not religion vs. science—it's a battle

between two different interpretations of the same evidence! So, of course, religion should make a bigger difference in one's interpretation of the evidence than evolutionary education (or indoctrination). Actually, what these researchers are really showing is the difference between God's historical science (the Bible) and man's historical science!

As Christians, our thinking on evolution and its counterpart, billions of years, needs to start with God's Word. It's God's Word—not man's ideas—that contains a true history of the universe. God was an eyewitness to creation and He told us how and when He did it in Genesis. Since God was there and He never lies ([Titus 1:2](#)), we can trust the account of history found in the Bible.

3. Meaning vs. No meaning

Col. 1:16

All things were created through Him and for Him.

On the question of purposes, we encounter a very important point of difference between biblical and evolutionary thought. In no other historical book do we find so many and such valuable statements of purpose for man, as in the Bible. As some examples illustrate:

- 1 *Man is God's purpose with creation:* ““So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him”” ([Gen. 1:27](#)).
- 2 *Man is the object of God's love:* ““I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness”” ([Jer. 31:3](#)).
- 3 *Man is the purpose of God's plan of redemption:* ““But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed”” ([Isa. 53:5](#)).

- 4 *Man is the purpose of the mission of God's Son:* ““This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him”” (1 [John 4:9](#)).
- 5 *We are the purpose of God's inheritance:* ““So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life”” ([Titus 3:7](#)).
- 6 *Heaven is our destination:* ““But our citizenship is in heaven”” ([Phil. 3:20](#)).

More Than Survival?

In contrast, the Bible reveals that humans are unique creatures designed for much more than just survival. Humans are creative, emotional, and spiritual beings, separate from the animal kingdom. We are designed to have deep relationships with others and with our Creator.

Humans have a unique ability to be creative in many areas. We have areas in the brain dedicated to the appreciation of beauty and creative thinking. Only humans have thousands of touch sensors on every finger. Only humans have a large part of the brain dedicated to controlling the hands with precision.

UP TO 100 MUSCLES ARE AT WORK DURING COMMUNICATION, AND THE BRAIN IS PROCESSING INFORMATION AT AN IMMENSE RATE.

The precise abilities of the human hand are not what we would expect if we were descended from an ape-like creature; but they are just what we would expect if we are made in God's image.

4. Abortion vs. Pro Life

Scripture Holds the Key to Understanding the Sanctity of Life

Scripture undergirds the scientific data. As we look to God's Word, the ultimate source of truth, we see that God, the Creator of life, tells us when personhood begins. He also makes clear who holds the reins of life and death.

Made in God's image—From the very beginning of the Bible we learn that God is the author of life. Human beings have incredible dignity because we are made in God's image. "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness," the Creator says. "Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" ([Genesis 1:26](#)).

In giving man dominion over animals God revealed that humanity is in a totally different class from animals. Genesis reveals that God creates human beings with a soul, moral choice, and self-conscious intelligence. We read of God breathing a soul (possessing free will and reason) into a human being in [Genesis 2:7](#) when He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

Formed in the womb—There are over seventy references to "the womb" in the Scriptures. One of these is [Jeremiah 1:5](#): "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." Catch the wording of this sentence: *God forms us in the womb*. He is intimately involved in creating and developing the little ones growing within their mothers.

Life sanctified in the blood—We also know that God equates the presence of blood with life. [Genesis 9:4](#) reads, "But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood." [Leviticus 17:11](#) states, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." [Deuteronomy 12:23](#) says,

“Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life.”

Scientists have observed that at 22 days of development, a baby’s heart begins beating and pumping the baby’s own blood through his or her circulatory system.³

A conscious soul—Around the end of the first month, a baby’s arms begin developing, and then fingers develop during the second month.⁴ This kind of development reflects God’s handiwork in the womb:

“You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth” ([Psalm 139:13–15](#)).

5. Heterosexuality vs. Homosexuality

The foundational teaching on marriage and sexual issues is found in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. When Jesus was questioned about marriage, He referred to these 2 chapters ([Matthew 19:1–12](#); [Mark 10:1–12](#)). Genesis teaches us that ““male and female He created them”” ([Genesis 1:27](#)). We were created to a plan—male and female complementing each other. That is, God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, nor Madam and Eve. Genesis also teaches that God instituted and designed marriage between a *man* and a *woman* ([Genesis 2:18–25](#)). There are a number of reasons why He did so.

Firstly, the complementary structure of the male and female anatomy is obviously designed for the normal husband-wife

relationships. Clearly, design in human biology supports heterosexuality and contradicts homosexuality.

Secondly, the combination of male and female enables man (and the animals) to produce and nurture offspring as commanded in [Genesis 1:28](#)—“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth.” This command is repeated to Noah after the Flood ([Genesis 8:15–17](#)). But procreation is not the only reason God made humans as sexual beings.

Thirdly, God gave man and woman complementary roles in order to strengthen the family unit. Woman was to be the helper that man needed ([Genesis 2:18](#)). However, the woman’s role as the helpmate is certainly not an inferior one. The enterprising God-fearing woman in [Proverbs 31:10–31](#) is an inspiring role model.

6. Atheism vs. Theism

Atheists are “coming out of the closet” and becoming more vocal about their message that “there is no God.” Professor Richard Dawkins (Britain’s leading atheist) is encouraging those who share his views to express their opinion. Author of *The God Delusion*, Dawkins says he wants to “free children from being indoctrinated with the religion of their parents or their community.”¹ Will Christians be prepared to “give an answer” to the atheists’ claims?²

7. Environmentalism

The first biblical basis for creation care is the fact that God is distinct from all creation, including human beings. He is the reason all things exist; without Him nothing exists ([Hebrews 11:3](#)). The one God is three Persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. All are involved with the creation, but the Son is the primary agent ([John 1:1–3](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [Colossians 1:16](#)). No other gods are before Him. So He is our ultimate measure for what is right and good.

[Romans 1:18–20](#) explains that God carefully designed creation as a physical illustration of His invisible qualities so that we would recognize and worship Him for who He is.² Christ gave flowers and sparrows value and compared them with His Father’s greater love for man ([Matthew 6:25–34](#)). When I realized that the sense of the divine was not coming from nature itself but from the Creator behind it, I was awed and refocused.

, [Genesis 1:28](#) proclaims, ““Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and *subdue* it; *have dominion* over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’”” (italics added). This verse caused a firestorm among environmentalists in the late 1960s. Historian and environmentalist Lynn White Jr. wrote a famous paper arguing that belief in religions like Judaism and Christianity was causing ecological problems because of scriptures like [Genesis 1:28](#).¹ He claimed that the verse taught that humans were to conquer and exploit nature. The article became popular with the assumption that the words *subdue* and *have dominion* were interpreted properly, within the context and overall themes of God’s character and purpose. They were not.

MAN CAN’T DO ANYTHING HE WANTS TO THE CREATION. HE IS A MERE STEWARD, OR ONE PUT IN CHARGE OF

THE OWNER'S POSSESSIONS WHILE THE OWNER IS AWAY.

This verse highlights the authority God gave man to rule the creation. But raping, pillaging, and otherwise destroying the land as man sees fit are not in keeping with God's character or His original purposes for a creation priest. Nature does not exist to simply satisfy the selfish human appetite. Man can't do anything he wants to the creation. He is a mere steward, or one put in charge of the owner's possessions while the owner is away.

8. Jesus is the Truth

God is the Source of all Truth, All Absolutes about everything are determined and set By God

Examples of what this affects are

1. Absolutes vs. Relativism

The rapidly declining moral state of America was the subject of a recent [New York Times opinion piece](#). In it, the author bemoaned the deplorable state of many of today's families and nationwide moral problems. He wrote, "We now have multiple generations of people caught in recurring feedback loops of economic stress and family breakdown, often leading to something approaching an anarchy of the intimate life."

This opinion piece is titled “The Cost of Relativism,” and it certainly shows what moral relativism is costing this nation. The author, David Brooks, states,

It’s increasingly clear that sympathy is not enough. It’s not only money and better policy that are missing in these circles; it’s norms. The health of society is primarily determined by the habits and virtues of its citizens. In many parts of America there are no minimally agreed upon standards for what it means to be a father. There are no basic codes and rules woven into daily life, which people can absorb unconsciously and follow automatically.

What Brooks is saying is that moral relativism—the idea that there isn’t an absolute standard for right and wrong—has created a generation that is morally sick because this generation has no agreed upon standard to follow

As soon as man decides truth, “everyone does what’s right in his own eyes” ([Judges 21:25](#)) and you end up with a society like ours!

Psm 119:159

Consider how I love Your precepts;

Revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.

¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word *is* truth,

And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

2. Moral vs. Immoral

The 10 commandments Exodus 20

Proverbs 6:16

These six *things* the Lord hates,
Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

- ¹⁷ A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.

3. Good vs. Evil

Isaiah 5:20 King James Version (KJV)

²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

4. Jesus is the Way

God is the Source of mans purpose in life and death

1. Religion vs. Relationship

Acts 4:12

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

John 3:36

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

I Tim 2:5

⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus,*

2. Humanism vs Thesim

3. Narcism vs. Biblical Anthropology

One of our major problems today is that the absolute authority of the Word of God has been by and large removed from the secular education system. It has been replaced with a framework that teaches there is no God, no absolutes, truth is relative, man is an animal, and so on.

In doing this, society's general understanding that man is a sinner (and that God has judged this world because of man's rebellion) has also been removed.

Generations of students are coming out of a system with no basis for believing absolutes, and having the wrong basis for understanding their true nature.

Remember the man that came to Jesus in [Matthew 19:16-17](#)? And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

One cannot understand "good" apart from God, for only God is infinitely good. Not only this, but the Bible makes it plain that all humans are sinners ([Romans 3:23](#)), and because of sin, I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing ([Romans 7:18](#)). This is why Paul cries out in [Romans 7:24](#): O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Because of sin, no human being is perfect. While some are able to do well at academic studies, others have to work hard just to pass. And a number of people have learning disabilities. The point is, if we don't understand our true nature and recognize and accept the effects of sin, being taught "self-esteem" as it is so often presented can lead to unreal expectations of oneself.

How does one having the mind of Christ and being Christian worldview think?

The Puritan writer John Owen (A.D. 1616-1683) expressed it this way:

We can test ourselves by asking whether our spiritual thoughts are like guests visiting a hotel, or like children living at home. There is a temporary stir and bustle when guests arrive, yet within a little while they leave and are forgotten. The hotel is then prepared for other guests. So it is with religious thoughts that are only occasional. But children belong to their house. They are missed if they don't come home. Preparation is continually being made for their food and comfort. Spiritual thoughts that arise from true spiritual mindedness are like the children of the house—always expected, and certainly enquired for if missing.¹¹

A more commendable approach is that of J. Gresham Machen, one of conservative Christianity's finest minds in his day (1881-1937): "Every Christian must think about God; every Christian to some degree must be a theologian."