

The **ENTRUSTED Leader's Workbook**
***“Barnabas”* Edition**

Seven Core Values that Impact Every Leader-to-Follower Relationship:
HEART-MISSION-APPROACH-STABILITY-LIFESTYLE-FORTITUDE-WORLDVIEW

Lesson Twenty One: A Biblical Worldview

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Lesson Twenty One: A Biblical Worldview

CORE VALUE: A WORLDVIEW founded on absolute truth and the words of Jesus Christ.

BIBLE VERSE(S): Psalms 119:97-106, & Romans 12:2

ONE SIMPLE TRUTH: Only a Biblical Worldview illuminates the path of God's will and transforms a leader's thinking in a manner consistent with God's Word.

APPLICATION: A leader who desires to follow Christ must commit to developing a Biblical worldview through a disciplined routine of studying God's Word.

Introduction:

Every leader possesses a "Worldview." How a person views the world directly influences how he or she leads others. A worldview provides a lens through which a person peers into his or her circumstances. A worldview serves as a preset filter by which someone receives and interprets bits of information about one's surroundings. Simply stated a "Worldview" shapes what a person believes to be true about the world in which mankind exists.

A leader's attitudes and actions ultimately spring from one's view of the world. A leader responds to his or her surroundings based on how he or she interprets truth. A faulty worldview invariably produces flawed leadership. A dysfunctional view of one's circumstances results in a dysfunctional leader. A worldview consistent with the truth and reality of human existence creates a strong foundation for effective leadership. Consequently, to lead as God, intends

one must embrace a view of the world consistent with God's revelation of himself and his creation.

A person's behavior always correlates to one's worldview. A person whose worldview has excluded the existence of God will live and act unrestrained and unaccountable to a higher being. Such a person only restricts behavior to what benefits self or what one believes he or she can get away with. A person whose worldview excludes the Bible finds no reason to know or obey God's Word. Such a person lives to gratify the selfish desires of the flesh with no regard to a higher sense of right and wrong. One's worldview ultimately dictates his or her attitudes and actions towards others. This outcome remains inescapable! A leader's worldview will shape how he or she leads others.

Sincerely believing a premise about the world in which humans live does not necessarily make the premise true. A wise leader contemplates questions such as: Is what I believe about the world true? Does my worldview match with objective reality? Do my ideas regarding my surroundings align with God's revelation of himself in creation and his Word? For example, some might say that people are basically good but make bad choices because they lack education. This premise leads one to emphasize education under the assumption that following education bad choices will vanish. The problem with this view of mankind becomes that this worldview neither matches with objective reality of society and creation, nor does it align with God's revelation of man in the Bible. Human nature remains basically self-centered and not good. People make bad decisions and choices based on a sinful nature and not a lack of education. Man needs both

justification and sanctification not more education to modify one's behavior. If one believes people are basically good and only needs education he or she will lead differently than the leader who sees people as sinful and fallen creatures.

Many influences compete to shape a person's view of the world in which he or she leads. Every leader gets bombarded with ideas that seem to fit with reality, but in fact fail the test of truthfulness. Modern communications have flooded our minds with thoughts that seem right on the surface, but prove to be false when closely examined. A leader can select from a wide range of sources by which to formulate one's worldview, such as: religion, science, media/movies/television, entertainers, newspapers/books, art, music, education, friends, popular trends, family heritage, socio-ethnic origin, athletics, and the internet. Sadly, these elements of secular culture impact the worldview of the average follower of Christ way too much.

A leader who follows Christ must honestly assess and then carefully craft a worldview that produces attitudes and actions consistent with how God desires a person to lead. Only one source exists that remains consistent with objective reality of the universe and God's revelation of himself. This source is the Bible. God's will is for followers of Christ to view the world through His Word. We call this a Biblical Worldview. Read Psalm 119:97-106 and answer the following questions.

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

⁹⁸ Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me.

⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.

¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

¹⁰¹ I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.

¹⁰² I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me.

- ¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.
¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.
(NIV)

Questions of the Biblical Text¹ (Psalm 119:97 - 106)

God's Word saturated David's conscious thoughts (v97). Briefly describe how God's Word impacts your thinking in the course of a day?

How did God's commands affect David? (v98). Explain how this might help you lead.

How did God's statutes affect David? (v99). Explain how this might help you lead.

How did God's Word affect David? (v100). Explain how this might help you lead.

¹ Unless otherwise noted the questions listed in *The ENTRUSTED Leader's Workbook* are based on: *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, c1984)

What did obedience to God's Word keep David's feet from following? (v101). Explain how this might help you lead.

Verses 100, 101, & 102 all mention obeying God's Word. Briefly describe the difference between knowledge of God's Word without obedience and obeying God's Word.

How did David describe the taste of God's Word (v.103)? What does this tell you about David's appetite for consuming God's Word? How does God's Word taste to you?

What did David gain from God's precepts (v.104)? What did David hate as a result of God's precepts? How might this help you as a leader?

What did God's Word do for David's feet and path (v.105)? Relate this verse in your own words to the formation of a Worldview.

Describe David's commitment to a Worldview based on God's Word (v.106).

Commentary:

God's Word saturated David's conscious thoughts. This state of mind provides evidence that David regularly fed God's Word into his mind and heart. Since David nourished his soul with scripture he could meditate on God's Word all day long. God's Word filtered every observation and decision made by David in the course of a day. David's view of the world came through the lens of God's Word permeating his mind. God's Word colored every judgment and evaluation David made. David possessed a Biblical Worldview. The mind of a leader who follows Christ should be so saturated with God's Word that every attitude and action spring from this Biblical view of the World.

The commands of the Lord provide wisdom for a leader. The Bible speaks to how a leader leads others in the marketplace. David recognized that a commitment to know God's commands made him wiser than his enemies. God's statutes provided David insight. The eternal insight David gained from God's Word surpassed the knowledge passed on from temporal human teachers. David's understanding of the reality of the world exceeded his elders because his knowledge and wisdom came from the revelation of the one who created the world. This same wisdom, insight, and understanding can help a Christ follower lead others with a clearer and more accurate view of the world than other leaders.

God's Word not only provides wisdom for leading, but also protects a leader from immoral decisions and actions that may very well cause one to fail as a leader. David

recognized that obeying God's Word kept his feet from following an evil path. Observing life suggests that more leaders fail because of evil behavior than they do from a lack of leadership skills. A commitment to obey God's Word serves to shield a leader from such potential career-ending attitudes and actions.

A big difference exists between knowing God's Word and obeying God's Word. The possession of knowledge alone provides a leader little or no significant benefits. Obedience to God's Word gives a leader wisdom and keeps one off an evil path. These benefits only come from obedience. A person must apply and adhere to God's Word in order for this knowledge to bear fruit in one's life.

The Word of God tasted sweet to David. He hungered for God's Word. The consumption of scripture satisfied the taste buds of his mind. Is the intake of Bible knowledge a pleasurable experience to you? Is the taste of God's Word in your heart and mind sweet like honey? The creation of a Biblical Worldview requires a disciplined intake of God's Word. A leader who follows Christ must acquire a taste for studying and knowing the scriptures. Every leader's daily routine should include the discipline of feeding passages of the Bible into one's mind. God's Word can taste as pleasurable as eating something sweet like honey.

God's precepts gave David understanding. Looking at life through the lens of God's truth helped David see the reality of the world accurately. This clear perception afforded David understanding. A Biblical Worldview helps a leader know right from wrong. Such a black and white view of issues helps a leader to recognize the deceit of a wrong path. David said that God's precepts lead him to "hate" every wrong path. A leader with a Biblical Worldview despises any situation contrary to God's Word and

takes steps to totally disassociate oneself from them. The Hebrew term for hate is *sane*.

The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* says this of the term *sane*:

“The verb *śānē* and its derivatives have the root meaning “to hate.” It expresses an emotional attitude toward persons and things which are opposed, detested, despised and with which one wishes to have no contact or relationship. It is therefore the opposite of love. Whereas love draws and unites, hate separates and keeps distant. The hated and hating persons are considered foes or enemies and are considered odious, utterly unappealing.”²

A Biblical Worldview gives a leader a clear and accurate view of the world in which he or she leads. Such a leader sees the world as society really exists, not how one wishes the world to exist. David used God’s Word as a lamp to his feet. God’s Word illuminated every step he took in life. Just as headlights provide light for the driver of a car so also God’s Word lights the path ahead of a leader so he or she can navigate the road of leading others.

David followed God’s righteous laws without reservation. God’s words guided his every decision and action as a leader. David took an oath before the Lord to live by a Biblical Worldview. The attitudes and actions of David’s life confirmed his commitment to this oath. David made a conscious decision to form and follow a view of the world based on God’s Word. A leader who desires to follow Christ must lead from the sure foundation of a Biblical Worldview. To see the world in which one leads clearly, a follower of Christ must allow God’s Word to transform his or her mind. Read Romans 12:2 and answer the following questions.

²R. Laird Harris, Robert Laird Harris, Gleason Leonard Archer and Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999, c1980), 880.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (NIV)

Questions of the Biblical Text (Romans 12:2)

What do you think it means to conform to the pattern of this world?

How might conforming to one’s secular culture impact one’s worldview?

What do you think it means for a person’s life to be “transformed”?

What does the Apostle Paul suggest that leads to a person’s life being transformed? How can a person promote the transformation of one’s thinking?

What comes from a transformed life and renewed mind? How might seeing God’s will clearly impact a leader’s view of the world?

Commentary:

The Apostle Paul encourages followers of Christ to resist the world's efforts to mold their lives to the secular patterns of culture. Paul knows that before knowing Christ, a person invariably behaves in a manner consistent with the norms of society. A lost person really has no choice but to follow and obey the principles for living propagated by the world's system. For a leader, conformity to the pattern of the world involves adopting the core values and practices that worldly leaders use instead of Biblical value and practices. A follower of Christ should leave the teachings of the secular world behind. A follower of Christ should embrace the truths of the faith laid out in the first eleven chapters of Romans and form a new worldview based on God's Word. A "transformed" life provides visible results of embracing a Biblical Worldview. Paul describes a life transformed by God's Word in Romans 12–16.

The leader who conforms to the pattern of the world will embrace a view of the world consistent with secular thinking. Conformity to the world will never lead a person to a Biblical worldview. The leader who claims to follow Christ but embraces the pattern of the world will never become the type of leader God desires. The impact on one's worldview when based on secular culture points 180 degrees in the opposite direction of a Biblical worldview.

By nature, everyone possesses a secular worldview. Living out of a Biblical worldview requires transformation. The Greek term for transformation used by Paul in Romans 12:2 is *metamorphoo*. Strong defines *metamorphoo* as follows: "...to change

into another form, to transform...”³ Swanson adds: “...change, transform the essential nature of something...”⁴ Based on a follower of Christ’s justification by faith Paul states that a corresponding change in attitude and actions should become evident in the life of a true believer. Salvation instantaneously and permanently changes a person’s essential nature. Consequently, the saved should begin to live differently than those who continue to be controlled and conformed by the world. Sadly, in today’s culture too many leaders who claim to follow Christ still conform to the world and lead others in a manner no different than leaders who still embrace the world’s system. Does how you lead demonstrate a life that has been radically transformed by Christ?

The Apostle Paul states that the process of transformation begins by “renewing of your mind” (NIV). The Greek term for “renewing” is *anakainosis*. Strong defines this word as follows: “...a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better...”⁵ Paul states in no uncertain terms that salvation should be evidenced by a change in behavior that starts with a complete change in how a person thinks about the world in which he or she lives. Paul expected a follower of Christ’s worldview to change from secular to Biblical. This renewing of the mind presupposes an intake of God’s Word that the Holy Spirit then uses to transform one’s life. The only way you will experience the life transformation

³James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996), G3339.

⁴James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), DBLG 3565, #2.

⁵James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996), G342.

Paul describes in Romans is to commit yourself to developing and living out of a worldview based exclusively on the Bible. To become the leader God desires you to be requires a Biblical Worldview.

The ENTRUSTED Leader's core value number one is: A HEART willing to do all God asks. Two key questions come into play that determine if a person will lead with a heart willing to do all God asks. The first is a decision on the part of a leader that he or she is willing to do all God asks. The second is a commitment to know and understand what it is that God is asking a leader to do. A leader must know what God's will entails if he or she intends to do it. God has revealed his will in his Word.

Paul reveals in Romans 12:2 a benefit of a transformed and renewed mind in regard to discerning God's will: "...you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (NIV) A Biblical worldview is the lens by which a leader perceives God's will, his "good, pleasing and perfect will." No other path for the development of a heart willing to do all God asks exists. Paul tells the follower of Christ that renewing one's mind with God's Word fuels the Holy Spirit's transformation of one's life and orients one's heart in line with God's will.

A secular worldview is not capable of transforming a leader's heart. A view of the world based on human culture and society will never produce the attitudes and actions God desires for leaders who claim to follow Christ. Only a Biblical worldview can transform a person's mind and heart which, in turn, produces the character and compassion required to lead as God desires.

Application

The leader who desires to follow Christ must view the world from a Biblical perspective. Every attitude and action must spring from a Biblical World view. Consider the temptation of Jesus by the evil one in Matthew 4:1-11. All of Jesus’ responses to the devil were quotes from God’s Word – the Book of Deuteronomy. Jesus viewed life through the lens of God’s Word and responded accordingly. As a leader who claims to follow Christ it is essential you adopt a Biblical Worldview.

Two broad steps will start this transformation of your mind. The first step requires a decision and commitment to lead from a Biblical view of the world. Knowledge of the Bible provides little or no value to a leader if no commitment exists to let Biblical truth and an understanding of God’s will to impact one’s attitudes and actions. Be aware that a decision to lead from a Biblical worldview will often run counter to secular culture and conflict the desires of the flesh. The first step in leading with a worldview based on God’s Word is one you can take right now. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to commit to God your intention to lead others based on the Bible. In the space below write a note to God that articulates your commitment to a Biblical worldview regardless of whether you just made this decision or have done so in the past.

My commitment to lead others from a Biblical worldview:

(Insert additional pages if necessary)

A Biblical worldview presupposes some knowledge of and application of God's Word in one's life. The second step involves creating a disciplined effort to intake God's Word into your mind. This is not to suggest a leader must become an expert in theology. Simply reading and meditating on God's Word releases the power of the Holy Spirit to transform one's thinking and leadership. The Holy Spirit does the transformation, but the follower of Christ must do his or her part first which involves feeding God's Word into one's mind. Paul encouraged "...the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse..." to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." (Colossians 1:1, 3:16 NIV) As a leader who desires to follow Christ, I highly encourage you to adopt a routine of feeding God's word into your mind daily. Many good "How to" books exist that address the topic of studying God's Word. I recommend you secure a copy of Dr. Howard Hendricks' book: Living By The Book. His approach is simple and practical, yet will help you develop a disciplined approach to studying God's Word that will lead you into a deeper understanding of God's Word and create in you the basis for a Biblical Worldview.

Conclusion

A person's worldview formulates the basis for all the attitudes and actions that shape one's life. For a leader, one's view of the world provides a foundation for one's motives, drive, priorities, and actions. Sadly, few Christians today have heeded Paul's advice. The worldview of the average Christian living in America today is more influenced by secular culture than the truths of the faith. Very few followers of Christ actually possess a worldview shaped by God's Word.

Christ followers lead in a world where secular philosophy has replaced the Judeo-Christian (Biblical) view of the world. Historically, a Biblical Worldview dominated

Western Civilization thinking, even for most non-Christians. This is no longer true, especially for the post-baby boomer generations. As a leader who desires to follow Christ leading from a Biblical worldview is becoming a less popular and more treacherous proposition. This Biblical view of leadership, however, is the basis from which God desires followers of Christ to lead others.

God intends for you to develop and use a WORLDVIEW founded on absolute truth and the words of Jesus Christ. Only a Biblical Worldview illuminates the path of God's will and transforms a leader's thinking in a manner consistent with God's Word. A leader who desires to follow Christ should commit to developing a Biblical worldview through a disciplined routine of studying God's Word.