**The Clash of Worldviews**

***Genesis 1:26-27 & Colossians 1:15-22***

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

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Introduction: What is your understanding of marriage, abortion, & capital punishment? How is that understanding determined? On what basis would you determine the definition or the morality concerning these issues? May I suggest to you this morning that the answers to these questions depends upon your worldview. What is a worldview? “A worldview is a set of basic beliefs, assumptions, & values that arise from a narrative (story) about the world & produces individual & group action that shapes human culture” (BJU Press). Basically there are 2 competing worldviews: Christian Theism & Secular Humanism. One has its basis in God & His Word, the Bible. The other has for a basis No God & evolution. In addition to answering the above issues, one’s worldview will result in the answer to some of life’s ultimate questions: (1) Who am I? (2) Why am I here? (3) What is wrong with the world? (4) How can what is wrong be made right? Let’s pause for a moment & let you consider how you would answer each of these questions. Now, let’s pray and then see how these 2 competing worldviews would answer these 4 questions.

 I. Secular Humanism answers:

 A. Who am I?

 1. I am the result of a random evolutionary process.

 2. I am the result of an accident, a mistake.

 Summary: I am no more than a glorified ape. There is no rhyme, reason, nor purpose for my

 existence.

 B. Why am I here?

 1. I am here basically to consume & to enjoy.

 2. “Get all you can. Can all you get. Sit on the can.”

 Summary: If I am only here to consume & enjoy, then what matters is my power or ability to get

 that which I need & to take if from you for my enjoyment.

 C. What is wrong with the world?

 1. People don’t know enough > they are not sufficiently educated.

 2. People aren’t watched enough > they are not sufficiently governed.

 D. How can what is wrong be made right?

 1. There needs to be more education.

 2. There needs to be more government.

 Summary: Sound familiar? Just listen to the news or watch T.V. programs. How is that working

 out so far?

 II. Christian Theism answers:

 A. Who am I?

 1. I am created in the image of God > Genesis 1:26.

 a. This determines the value of human life. See Genesis 9:6 & cf. James 3:9.

 b. This determines the dignity of human life. Man reflects the Divine image.

 2. I am created one of 2 genders > Genesis 1:27.

 a. Male/Female creation speaks of harmony – interpersonal relationships (Gen. 2:24).

 b. Male/Female creation speaks of equality – equal in personhood & importance (Gal. 3:28).

 c. Male/Female creation speaks of authority – a difference in roles (Eph. 5:22-33).

 Summary: I am more than a glorified ape. There is rhyme, reason, & purpose for my existence.

 B. Why am I here?

 1. I am created for God’s glory > Colossians 1:15-16.

 a. Compare Isaiah 43:7, *“Even every one that is called by My name: for I have created him*

 *for My glory. I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”*

 b. Consider Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14, *“…That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first*

 *trusted in Christ.”*

 2. I am crowned with God’s glory > Colossians 1:17-18.

 a. I am the crown & glory of God’s creation – Psalm 8:4-5.

 b. I am created to bring honor & glory to Christ – Romans 11:26 & Revelation 4:11.

 C. What is wrong with the world?

 1. Me! My sin > Colossians 1:19-21.

 a. Compare Romans 3:23.

 b. Consider I John 3:4.

 2. Me! My selfishness > Ephesians 2:2-3.

 a. See Isaiah 53:6.

 b. See also Romans 3:10-12, 18.

 Summary: It is man’s hostility towards his Creator resulting from sin. He retains the image of

 God, but it is distorted (see Romans 1:18-32). For an example, see Acts 12:23.

 D. How can what is wrong be made right?

 1. Man needs cleansing from sin > Colossians 1:22.

 a. There must be *“repentance toward God”* – Acts 20:21 (& cf. Luke 13:3, 5).

 b. There must be *“faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”* – Acts 20:21 (& cf. Eph. 2:8-9).

 2. Man needs clothing with Christ’s righteousness > Isaiah 61:10.

 a. See Romans 10:10, *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; & with the*

 *mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

 b. See also II Corinthians 5:21, *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;*

 *that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

 Summary: “The spotless, sinless Lamb of God was crushed, rejected, & killed to pay a debt that

 He did not owe on behalf of sinners who could never pay Him back” (Baucham).

Conclusion: If we put these 2 competing worldviews side by side, what do we find? Secular Humanism leaves us simply as a mistake, the result of random evolutionary processes, nothing more than a glorified ape. We are worthless, left to pursue our own selfish ends with no ultimate satisfaction, not to mention the end, eternal death. With Christian Theism we have promise & purpose. In summary, Christian Theism tells me who I am: the crowning glory of God’s creation. It tells me why I am here: to bring honor & glory to the Lord of creation. It tells me what is wrong with the world: me, & all like me who rebel against & reject the Sovereign Lord of the universe. And yet it tells me how what is wrong can be made right: repentance toward God & faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in His atoning death on the cross.

 How do you see the world around you this morning? Will you view it through the lenses of Secular Humanism or Christian Theism? Might I challenge you today with the words of a children’s song we learned in VBS a few years ago? It tells us to “Put on Your Bible Glasses.” How do you answer life’s ultimate questions? Do you have a personal relationship to the God who created you through the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ?