

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS

Part One

“Welcome to the War Zone”

We spent last year in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ description of what we called the “normal Christian life”. We will begin our New Year with study of what awaits the truly born again believer in a world that is not born again; we call it a “war of the worldviews”.

The war is spiritual. It is a conflict between 2 kingdoms; a war that Jesus promised us...

I. Jesus Promised A War

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Matthew 10:34 KJV

A. The War is ON!

1. Which war? There are so many!

a. Culture wars. Race wars. Gang wars. Tribal wars. We hear about class warfare and the “war on women”.

b. The escalating problem of North Korea has many fearing that we’re on the brink of another “world war”.

2. The question arises: Why is there so much warfare in the world? Where does it all come from?

“All wars have one element in common that exists at the most fundamental level possible. At the root of every kind of war is a faith system that deems it okay to fight the war.”

Freddy Davis, Worldview Wars

3. He is saying that the root cause of all warfare is a “faith system”, or a “worldview” that makes war inevitable!

a. ISIS beheads people. They behead Syrians, Egyptians, Christians, and even other Muslims who they think not “Muslim” enough. But why? Because in their faith system, or worldview, they believe that those who disagree with their religion are worthy of death.

b. America’s enemies are China, North Korea, Iran, and the Soviet Union; war could break out anytime. Why? Because these nations have “faith systems” that oppose the worldview we hold; different values and ideas about how a nation should function.

c. In our national politics, the Democrats are at war with the Republicans, and vice versa. Why? Because each side has a different “faith system”; a different way of seeing the world.

4. We could go on and on, but the point is made. All warfare is rooted in a conflict of faith systems or “worldview”!

B. So What in the World is a “Worldview”?

“A worldview is the way a person looks at and evaluates the world in which they live.”

Gary DeMar

1. Two people can see the same thing; or the same fact, such as the sonogram of an unborn child. But they end up in a war with each other because they have different worldviews.

a. **One sees the fetus simply as tissue; the other sees a person.**

b. The first one fights for the mother’s right to abort the child; the second person fights for the right of the child to live.

c. The first fights the second because of how they “see” the sonogram; they have 2 different worldviews.

2. Take that a step farther: These same 2 people will probably be at war over other things beside abortion because a person’s worldview is *comprehensive*; it consists of an entire *system* of interconnected beliefs...

“A worldview is a set of beliefs which define the way we understand reality.”

Freddy Davis, Worldview Wars

3. Our worldview affects everything we think about every “thing”.

a. A worldview is like putting on a pair of sunglasses. It will affect everything I see.

“A worldview is simply the sum total of our beliefs about the world, the ‘big picture’ that directs our daily decisions and actions. So understanding worldviews is extremely important.”

Charles Colson

4. One of the goals in this course of Bible study is to understand that *all* warfare is *worldview* warfare!

“Christians must understand the clash of worldviews that is changing the face of American society.”

Chuck Colson

5. How can we win a war if don’t even know what we are fighting?

a. Many Christians were up in arms because President Obama refused to identify the enemy as “radical *Islamic* terrorists”; his worldview included the belief that using that term would needlessly offend Muslims. His critics cried out, “How can you defeat an enemy you can’t identify?” But sadly today, many Christians cannot identify the real enemy God has called us to confront...anti-Biblical worldviews!

“Nothing short of a great Civil War of values rages today throughout North America...two sides with vastly differing and incompatible worldviews are locked in a bitter conflict that permeates every level of society.”

Dr. James Dobson & Gary Bauer in *Children at Risk*

6. Now by this we understand what Paul meant when he said that we “wrestle not against flesh and blood”; our warfare is not with other *people*, we are at war with the unbiblical worldviews other people hold!

7. You may be thinking, “Uh oh, this is going to be complicated!” Or, “How many worldviews are there?”

8. You’ll be OK if you remember this: all these opposing worldviews are really *spiritual* in nature; they are *belief* system; and there are really only TWO!

C. There Are Only Two Worldviews to Choose From

1. Many years ago I was trying to witness to a young man who asked me this question:

“There are so many religions in the world that all claim to be the truth. How can I know which one is right?”

Almost without thinking, these words came out of my mouth: “Really there are only 2 religions in the world. There is Christianity or there is anything else. Call all the others what you will, they are really only one because they are not Christian. If you don’t choose Christ, it really doesn’t matter which one you believe.” He was stunned to hear it so simple. And the same principle applies to what seems to be a multitude of worldviews!

a. In his book, “War of the Worldviews”, Gar DeMar hits it...

“We are experiencing the conflict of two rival faiths—*Christianity* that teaches God is Sovereign over all, and *the variety of worldviews* that teach that man is sovereign over all...”
Gary DeMar

b. Notice how he simplifies things into just “two” rival faiths, which are really worldviews—Christianity, that teaches God is Sovereign over all against the “variety of worldviews” that teach man is sovereign over all”.

2. The first of the two faiths is what we call the *biblical worldview*; that God is sovereign over all; that He is the supreme power and the final authority over all things. The second worldview has many names; it comes to us disguised as political, social, economic or religious; but all are really just ONE because they have one thing in common; that man (or something other than God, such as science), is the final authority!

3. When it comes to choosing sides in the worldview war, you have 2 choices...

IT’S GOD’S WAY OR THE HIGHWAY!

4. How can we say this? Because Jesus Christ Himself picked a fight with every belief system opposed to Him. One verse proves it.

**I am THE Way, THE truth, and THE life.
John 14:6**

- a. Men think there are many “ways” to God; many “truth’s” to live by; many lifestyles to choose from. But not really...there is His way or no way.
- b. The rest of the verse makes people even madder...

**NO ONE comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6**

5. These claims of Christ put Him on a collision course with every other *religion* in the world; with every other *worldview*. He picks a fight and demands a choice and He leaves no place to be neutral!

C. Neutrality is Not an Option

- 1. The biggest reason the church is losing the culture war is because it’s hard to win a war when your troops are sitting on the sideline!
- 2. The evolutionist’s worldview is still on the march in our classrooms; the socialist worldview stalks the halls of congress; the humanist worldview is on the move in our movie theaters and football stadiums; but the Army of God is on bivouac; or AWOL.
- 3. We fight and win a skirmish here and there; but we’re losing the war so many churchgoers don’t have a comprehensive biblical worldview to beat back the enemy.

**Only 19% of Christians in the United States have a Christian worldview.
Barna Research**

- a. How can win the culture wars if 4 out of 5 of us are sitting on the sidelines?

**“The church’s singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview that governs every area of existence.”
Charles Colson**

4. Jesus is either Lord of all or not Lord at all. Neutral is not an option.

a. He drew the line in the Sermon on the Mount...

“No man can serve two masters...”

Matthew 6:24

b. He drew the line even clearer in Luke 23...

He that is not with Me is against Me...

Luke 11:23

c. This one verse makes it possible that no one in this world is neutral!

- If someone says, “I’m not religious at all”, Jesus says you are against Him.
- If someone says, “I think there are many ways to God”, Jesus says you are against Him
- Someone says “I choose not to make a choice”, Jesus would say “You just did!”
- He makes it simple. Do you remember choosing teams on the playground? There were only 2 sides! You are either with Jesus or you are against Jesus.

5. This is reality. God allows no neutrality. The biblical worldview is all or nothing.

“Therefore, there is no area in the world in thought, in word, or in deed which is irrelevant, indifferent or neutral toward God and His demands.”

Greg Bahnsen, *Always Ready*

6. We are in a war of worldviews over who runs this world.

“No demilitarized zone exists between the camp of unbelief and the forces obedient to Christ. God either owns everything or nothing. Every area of life and every fact are what they are because of God’s Sovereign decree, and so there is no place a man can flee in order to escape the influence, control and requirements of God. In God’s world, neutrality is impossible.”

Greg Bahnsen

7. Let me close with a question some of you may be asking in your mind...

“Where did Jesus talk about worldviews?”

8. That’s a good question!

III. Conclusion

A. Where Does Jesus Talk About Worldviews?

1. We know He never used the word. But there *is* a place where He had worldviews in mind.

"Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

Matthew 6:22-23 NLT

2. Jesus uses the “eye” as a metaphor for how we see things; we could call it our “worldview”.

3. He speaks of only 2 kinds of “eyes”, or we could say only really 2 “worldviews”; “good” and “bad”.

4. He says that if our “eye” (worldview) is “good”, our whole body will be “filled with light!

a. To have a good “eye” means that we have a *biblical worldview*; we presuppose that God is sovereign; we see everything through the lens of God’s Word; we define truth by what God says is true; He is our final authority.

b. If our worldview is biblical, our whole body will benefit because we are seeing everything as it really is.

5. On the other hand, He says if our “eye” (or worldview) is “bad”, our whole body will be “filled with darkness.”

a. To have a “bad” eye means that we do not have a biblical worldview; we believe man, or science, or something other than God is sovereign in the world.

b. If our “eye’ (worldview) is bad, it means that we are looking at the world through the wrong lens; all we think we know and understand is really darkness.

6. And His last comment is this...

“If the light you think you have is darkness, how deep is that darkness!”

7. Everybody has a worldview whether they know it or not. Everyone has a set of beliefs they live by.

8. Jesus came to bring the light to those in darkness and now sends us forth to do the same.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

9. We are in the midst of wolves; worldviews that deny God and hold people hostage.

10. Many of God’s people have the “harmless as doves” down pat; not it’s time to become wise as serpents...

Welcome to the War Zone!