

## WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #5

### “Ideas Have Consequences”

#### I. Introduction

##### A. One of the Most Profound Verses in the Bible

**As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.**  
**Proverbs 23:7**

**"What he thinks is what he really is."**  
**Today's English Version**

1. Our mind is one of God's greatest gifts us; the ability to think, the power to reason, to plan, to dream and to imagine.

a. Birds don't have it. Fish don't have it. Some animals are “smart”; but not even close to the class of human beings “made in the image and likeness of God!

2. This verse says who we are and how we act is determined by how we *think*, by what we really *believe* in our hearts; we call this our “worldview”.

**“A worldview is a set of beliefs which define the way we understand reality.”**  
**Freddy Davis, Worldview Wars**

3. How people think determines how people live; which is why our warfare in this world is not against other people (“flesh and blood”) but against the worldviews that oppose God and hold people captive.

4. In other words, ***IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES***.

**“This is a war of ideology, a war of ideas; it's a war about our way of life. And it has to be fought with the same intensity and dedication as you would fight a shooting war.”**

**James Davison Hunter in “Culture Wars”**

5. Sad to say, many American Christians have no idea how high the stakes are!

**“We are in a civil war of values and the prize to the victor is the next generation—our children and our grandchildren.”**

**Dr. James Dobson**

6. There’s an old saying that “you can win the battle and lose the war”.

**“The weakness in the modern church is fighting cultural skirmishes on all sides without knowing what the war itself is about. We have not identified the worldviews that lie at the root of cultural conflict—and this ignorance dooms our best efforts.”**

**Chuck Colson**

a. Think about it this way: we fight against abortion, the legalization of gay marriage, and racial prejudice but we never go to war with the IDEAS that produce these CONSEQUENCES!

7. We hack away at the fruits of sin without attacking the roots of sin; we are not winning the war of the worldviews, the IDEAS that are behind the BEHAVIORS.

8. So how do we begin to win the war of the worldviews?

## **II. We Must Begin at the Beginning**

### **A. It Matters Where You Start**

1. There’s another old saying about professional golf tournaments, which are usually played over 4 days...

**“You can’t win the golf tournament on the first day; but you can lose it.”**

**Nick Faldo**

a. This means that you can get so far behind that you will never be able to catch up.

b. The same thing holds true in the culture wars.

2. The 1<sup>st</sup> idea to fight for is over the very nature of the world; over the first verse in the Bible...

**“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”  
Genesis 1:1**

3. This verse is the foundational cornerstone of the biblical worldview; the “ultimate presupposition” for Christian thinking; our core belief.

**“At the center of every worldview is what might be called the ‘touchstone proposition’ of that worldview, a proposition that is held to be the fundamental truth about reality and serves as a criterion to determine which other propositions may or may not qualify as candidates for belief.”  
William H. Halverson, A Concise Introduction to Philosophy**

a. The ‘touchstone proposition’ of the biblical worldview is Creationism.

b. In the other corner is *naturalism*, the idea that everything that exists can be explained by natural causes.

**“Today many think that it does not matter what a man believes, but it does. What a man believes tells him what the world is for. If people can’t agree what the world is for, they can never agree on all the little things in life either.”  
Richard M. Weaver, “Ideas Have Consequences”**

4. Christians who cave in on Creationism will find themselves so far behind the game they can never catch up.

## **B. The Idea and the Consequences of Naturalism**

1. The “touchstone proposition” of the biblical worldview is creationism; the “touchstone proposition” of the other side is naturalism, the idea that everything that exists can be explained by natural causes.

2. The naturalist worldview in our day draws much of its power from the IDEAS of Charles Darwin’s “theory of evolution”, presented in his book, “Origin of the Species”, which was published in 1859. This book, more than any other, strikes at the very heart of the biblical worldview that GOD created the heavens and the earth and the species as well, to produce after their own kind. The book

quickly became the a kind of “bible” for all who opposed the idea of a Creator/God.

**“Darwin’s work was the weapon that the secularists needed to advance a rival comprehensive worldview based on non-Theistic, non-Christian, presuppositions. For the secularists, Darwinian evolution was a way out of a world governed by a Creator.”**

**Gary DeMar**

3. The Bible tells us God created man “in His own image, after His own likeness.” Evolution explains God away, as the great Francis Schaeffer pointed out...

**“Darwin set forth the concept that all biological life came from simpler forms by a process called ‘the survival of the fittest’. And yet statistical studies indicate that pure chance (randomness) could not have produced the complexity in the world out of chaos, in any amount of time so far suggested.”**

**Francis Schaeffer**

a. The mathematics of evolution just don’t add up!

**The odds of evolution being true are like believing than that a monkey, given enough time of hitting keys on a typewriter, could eventually produce “Gone With The Wind”!**

4. Famous English astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle did not believe in Genesis 1:1, but he did agree with Creationists on this point. He said...

**“Supposing the first living cell originated by chance is like believing "a tornado sweeping through a junk yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein."**

He also said...

**“We must now admit to ourselves that the probability of life arising by chance, by evolution, is the same probability of throwing a dice that comes up 6 five million consecutive times.”**

**Sir Fred Hoyle**

5. So how is it possible so many believe it?

**Pew Research Center says 73% of American adults under 30 believe in some sort of evolution.**

6. The real answer comes from Sir Arthur Keith, Scottish anthropologist, Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, a dedicated evolutionist and an expert in the study of human fossils...

**“Evolution is unproven and unprovable. We believe it because it is the only alternative to special creation, and that is unthinkable.”**

**Sir Arthur Keith**

7. Evolution is an IDEA that does away with God. And...

## **II. Ideas Have Consequences**

### **A. Ever Heard of Hitler?**

1. Of course you have. But have you ever heard of prominent German anthropologist Otto Ammon? 40 years before Hitler’s rise to power, this man became a devoted evolutionist, and its motto, “survival of the fittest.”

**“The laws of nature are the laws of society. Darwinism must become the new religion of Germany because the racial struggle is necessary for mankind.”**

**Otto Ammon, German racial anthropologist, 1893**

a. Evolution teaches ‘survival of the fittest’ and that some races are superior to others!

2. Take a look at the original title page of Darwin’s book, something they never talk about!

**“On the Origin of the Species By Means of Natural Selection”**

**Subtitle: On the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life**

a. Evolution promotes racism as necessary! The ‘favored races’ must be preserved! The logical next idea is that the inferior races must be sacrificed! And that’s exactly what happened in Germany!

3. Have you ever heard of German scholar Ernst Haeckel?

a. 20 years before Hitler's rise to power, Haeckel (1842-1916) pushed the implication of Darwin's theories to comprehensive limits. He believed that moral law should follow what could be seen in nature...

**“Thousands, indeed millions of cells are sacrificed in order for a species to survive. So if survival of the fittest is morally operative in biology, then it is equally ethical for society.”**

**Ernst Haeckel**

4. History tells us Haeckel's use of Darwin's theories was decisive in the intellectual history of his time. One historian said...

**“Haeckel's use of Darwin's ideas united trends already developing in Germany of racism, imperialism, nationalism and anti-Semitism.”**

5. First came Ammon, then Haeckel, and then the man who embraced the IDEAS of these men, which included the idea of “superior races”...Adolf Hitler.

6. IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES. The extermination of over 6 million Jews and a World War all came from believing that evolution's ‘survival of the fittest’ is the law of life for men as well as animals!

**“I do not see why man should not be as cruel as nature.”**

**Adolf Hitler**

7. How did a monster like this come to power in a nation that brought the great Protestant Reformation to the world just 400 years earlier? Because the Christian church lost the ‘war of the worldviews’ in Germany!

8. Ideas have consequences. Belief in evolution justified *6 ½ million* Jews burned in the ovens of Nazi prison camps and another *60 million* dying in a World War that involved 106 of the world's nations!

9. But America had its own monster, worse than Hitler...

## **B. Ever Heard of Margaret Sanger?**

1. Born in Corning, New York in 1879 where her father was known as the ‘village atheist’:

- Originator of the term “birth control”
- Founder of the American Birth Control League, later known as “Planned Parenthood”
  - Her motto: “No gods-no masters”

### Meet Margaret Sanger In Her Own Words

**“No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her own body. No woman can call herself free until she can consciously choose whether she will or will not be a mother.”**

**Margaret Sanger**

2. Sanger was an outspoken champion of abortion as a means of population control, saying this in 1922:

**“The most merciful thing that the large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it.”**

**Margaret Sanger**

3. Margaret Sanger drank deeply from the wells of Charles Darwin, which explains her racism...

**“Slav, Latino and Hebrew immigrants are human weeds, a deadweight of human waste. Blacks and Jews are a menace to the human race.”**

**Margaret Sanger in 1922**

4. While Hitler focused on eliminating Jews, Sanger especially targeted blacks as being inferior, which is why from the beginning until now the majority of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinics are in African-American neighborhoods!

**“We do not want the word to get out that we want to exterminate the Negro population if it ever occurs to any of its more rebellious members.”**

**Margaret Sanger**

**“The great irony is that abortion has done what the Klan only dreamed of—roughly ¼ of the black population is now missing.”**

**Dr. Aveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King**

5. Sanger's said that her goal was "*to create a race of thoroughbreds*"; which sounds like the American version of Adolf Hitler's belief in the superiority of the Aryan race. Which required the elimination of Jews.

6. And THIS is the woman who is admired by today's political leaders?

**"I admire Margaret Sanger enormously; her courage, her tenacity and her vision. I am in awe of her."**

**Hillary Clinton**

a. How can a professing Christian "enormously admire" a woman like this?

**"Margaret Sanger was a racist and eugenicist who studied Russia's eugenicist policies. She marveled at how the communist state utilized both abortion and religious oppression to advance its societal goals."**

"And like her protégé *Hillary Clinton*, Sanger attacked religious beliefs as an obstacle to abortion, stating, 'We [in America] could well take example from Russia.'"

**Pennsylvanian Republican Congressman Keith Rothfus**

7. How far have we fallen when a modern American President closes a speech honoring Planned Parenthood with these words...?

**"Thank you Planned Parenthood. And God bless you."**

**Barack Obama, April 26, 2013**

a. How can you ask God to bless the nation's #1 provider of abortions on demand?

8. In his biography of Margaret Sanger, "Killer Angel", our friend Dr. George Grant describes who she really was...

**"This champion of birth control and the patron saint of feminism was no less horrific in her disdain for the helpless and hapless than any of the other monsters of progressivism—Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini and Mao..."**

**NOW GET THIS LINE...**



**“The only difference is they have been discredited, while she has not—at least not yet.”**

**Dr. George Grant in “Killer Angel: A Biography of Planned Parenthood’s Margaret Sanger**

9. Here’s the point: IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

### **WHO WAS THE GREATEST MONSTER?**

- Adolf Hitler’s worldview came from ideas originated in Darwin’s theory of evolution and he murdered 6 million Jews
- Margaret Sanger’s worldview came from ideas originated in Darwin’s theory of evolution and America has seen 60 million babies aborted since 1973

## **III. Conclusion**

### **A. The Greater Question**

1. Hearing all this makes us ask...

- Where was the Christian church in Germany all those years that the ideas of Darwin eventually produced an Adolf Hitler?
- Closer to home, where was the Christian church in America during the 50 years between the time Margaret Sanger founded Planned Parenthood on the ideas of Charles Darwin and the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion?

2. Mostly silent. Souls were won for sure. But was anyone equipping those souls with a biblical worldview that could defeat the Evolutionists? The answer is obvious not. It’s time for a...

### **B. Reality Check**

1. In the 1830’s a young Frenchman named Alexis de Toqueville came to the United States to analyze the greatness of the new nation called America.

**“In America, Christianity reigns without obstacle and by universal consent.”**  
**Alexis de Tocqueville**

**“There is no country in the world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America.”**

**Alexis de Toqueville**

2. We all know that is no longer the case. We are now living in a “post-Christian” culture. *But the war is not lost!*

3. God’s ideas work better than man’s ideas. But it’s up to God’s people to bring His colors onto the field!

4. And it’s not up to me, it’s up to US!

**“The responsibility for apologetics is not limited to Christian pastors or intellectuals. When I challenge people to learn how to defend their faith and “think christianly,” they often respond, “Oh, I’m not up to this,” or “It’s too deep for me.”**

**But God has created each of us with a mind, with the capacity to study, think, and ask questions. No one is an expert in every area, but each of us can master the subjects in which we have some experience.**

**“If our culture is to be transformed, it will happen from the bottom up—from ordinary believers practicing apologetics over the backyard fence or around the barbecue grill.”**

**Charles Colson in “How Now Shall We Live?”**

**IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!**

**Because...**

**AS A MAN THINKS IN HIS HEART, SO HE BECOMES!**

**Proverbs 23: 7**