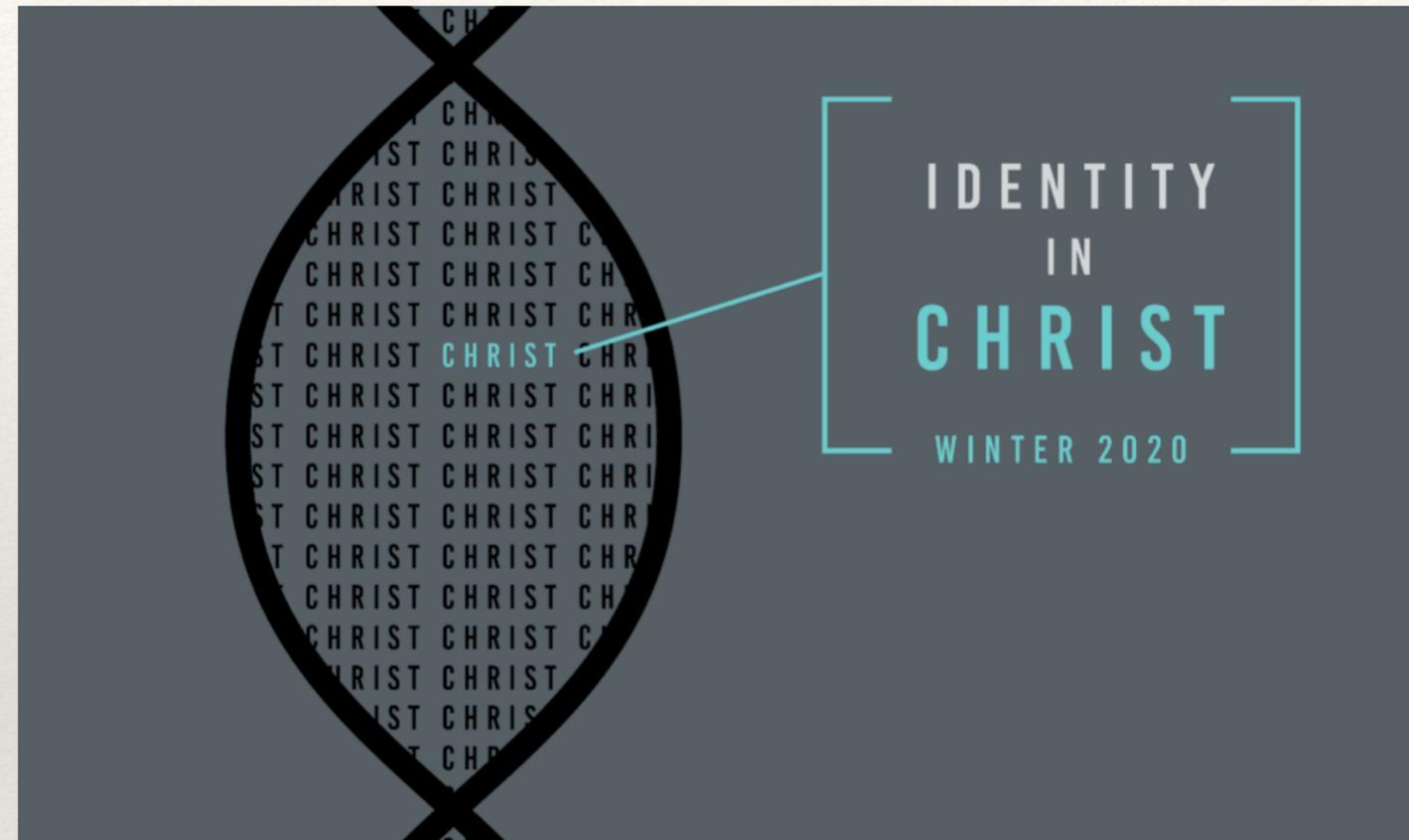


# Identity in Christ



I Have a New Mindset

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# Introduction

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- In Christ, we have been given a new worldview: the mind of Christ.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, God transforms our minds to His thoughts and His ways.
- But we also have a role to play in the process. We are called to set our mind on the things of the Spirit, taking every thought captive to Christ.
- This change in mindset results in a change in attitude, a lifestyle of humility, service and unity.

In Christ, we have been  
given a new worldview

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# A New Worldview

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- In Christ, we have been given a new worldview.
- Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- Whether we realize it or not, we all have a worldview that comes from a blend of our culture, our family's values, and our own experiences.
- For example, most Americans share a belief in freedom and basic human rights, which affects how we view our choices, our relationships, and our responsibilities.

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# A New Worldview

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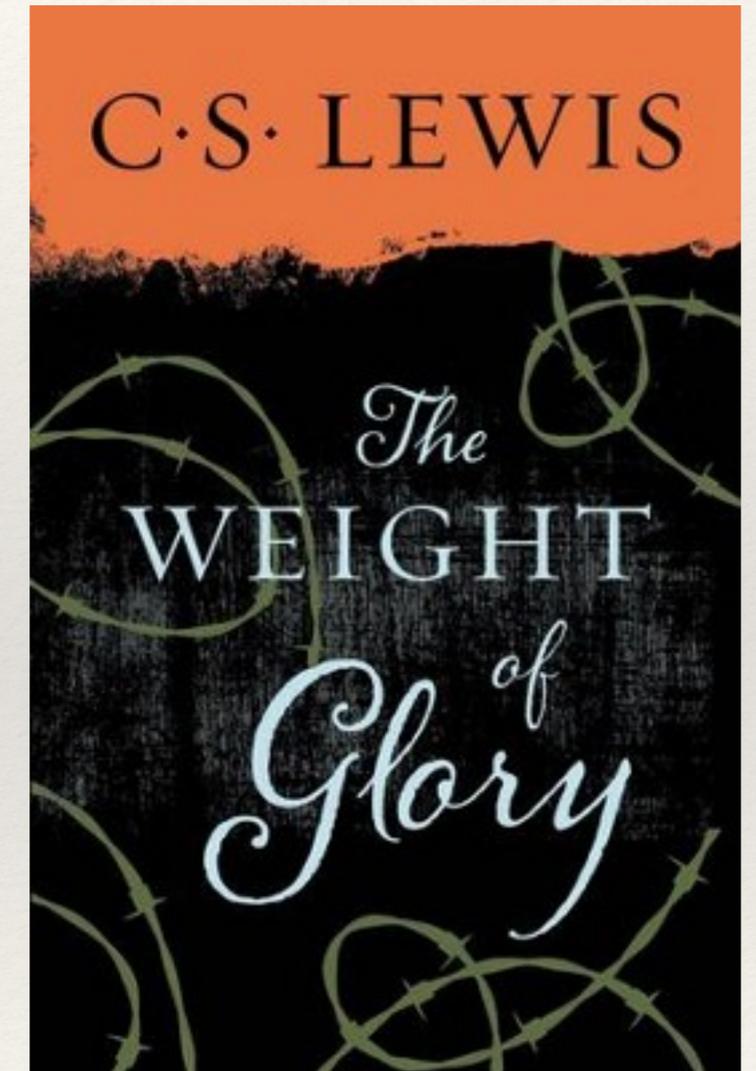
- All of us have a natural worldview built on these things, one we don't even necessarily think about.
- When we become believers, God gives us a new worldview.
- When God changes our hearts, He also changes our minds.
- Instead of our being conformed to the world, the way everyone else around us thinks, He transforms us (Romans 12:2).
- He changes the way we think, the way we see the world.

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# A New Worldview

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- In *The Weight of Glory*, C. S. Lewis wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else.”
- Having a Christian worldview is like putting on a pair of “God glasses.”
- You start to see everything else the way God sees it.



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# A New Worldview

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- Because God is the Creator and sustainer of the whole universe, when we put on those God glasses, it's the first time we can see things the way they are.
- When a person puts on eyeglasses for the first time, everything finally comes into focus.
- The person starts to see things clearly and even to see things he or she had never seen before.
- Because God's thoughts and ways are the truth, when we look at the world from a Christian perspective, our eyes are opened (Acts 26:18).

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# A New Worldview

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- When you put on a pair of glasses, the world around you doesn't change at all. But you can see it clearly because you have changed.
- These “God glasses” affect the way we see everything and the way we think about everything, and that changes the way we live.
- Following Jesus means our faith affects everything: our view of family, education, friendships, the sanctity of life, etc.

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# A New Worldview

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- What we do with our minds is important.
- A Christian is called to love God, not only with our hearts and souls, but also with our minds (Matthew 22:37).
- We are commanded to take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- We are to set our minds on spiritual things (Colossians 3:2), to think about whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8).

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# A New Worldview

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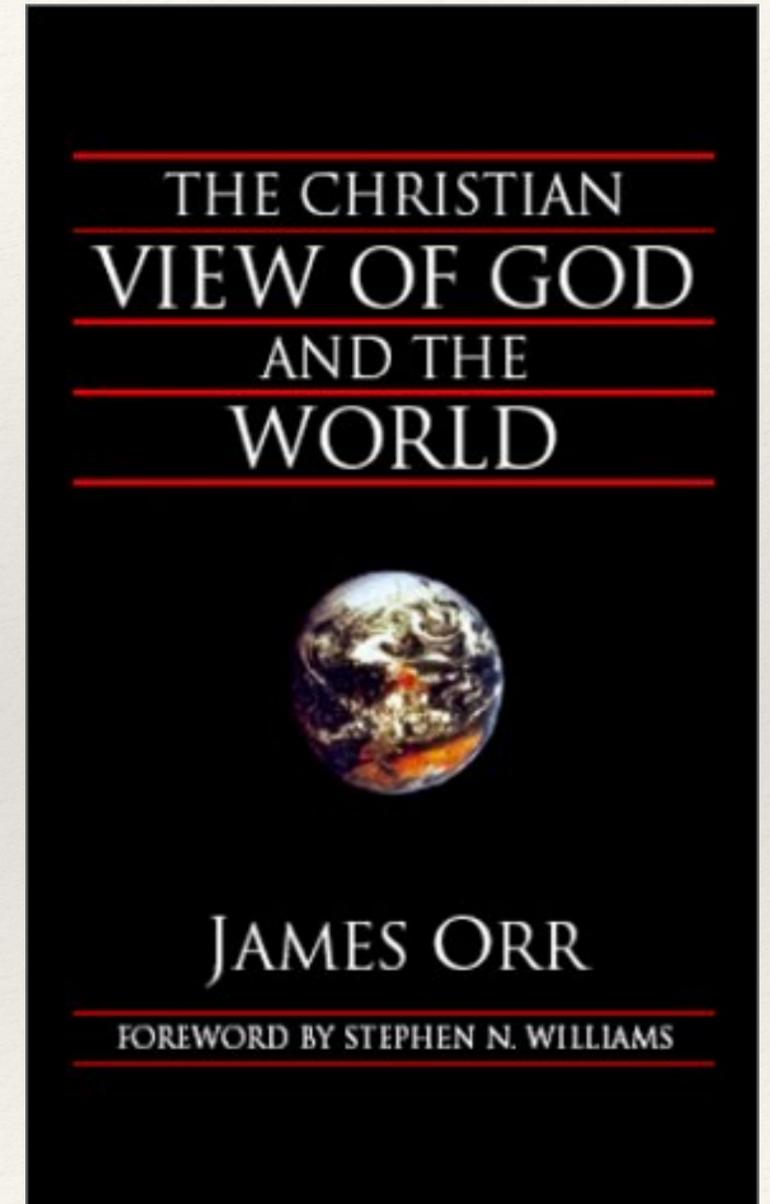
- A Christian worldview is practical theology.
- It gives us a framework for understanding the world and how to live in it.
- The way we think matters.
- Jesus said, “Out of the heart comes evil thoughts.... These are what defile a person” (Matthew 15:19–20).
- Paul told the Romans, a mind set on the flesh is death, but a mind set on the things of the Spirit is life and peace (Romans 8:6).

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# A New Worldview

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- In *The Christian View of God and the World*, James Orr maintains that there is a definite Christian worldview that has a character, coherence and unity of its own and stands in sharp contrast with counter theories and speculations.
- We will not be conformed to what the rest of the world says (Romans 12:2).
- We will stand firm on God's truth, God's perspective in everything.



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# A New Worldview

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- In Isaiah, God says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways” (Isaiah 55:8).
- If we want to walk in His ways, we have to let Him transform our thoughts.
- God alone gives us this new mindset; it only comes from Him.
- It is not something we can logically deduce for ourselves; it is revealed to us only through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10–13).
- As believers, “we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16).

*We must choose to set our  
minds on the things of Christ*

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# Our Minds on Christ.

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- We must choose to set our minds on the things of Christ.
- Philippians 4:8
- 2 Corinthians 10:1-6
- In these passages, God is the active one. We are passive. We don't transform ourselves, we have to "be transformed" by the Spirit (Romans 12:2).
- We don't logically deduce the thoughts of God. They are revealed to us by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10–13).

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# Our Minds on Christ.

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- We have a role in all of this. We saw this last week as we looked at justification and sanctification.
- We are declared holy before God, but the Spirit also grows us in holiness throughout our lives with Christ.
- That same process applies to our thoughts.
- As believers, we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), yet God continues to transform our minds day-by-day as we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to Him (Romans 12:1–2).

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# Our Minds on Christ.

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- Scripture commands us to think about godly things (Philippians 4:8).
- That Greek verb carries a sense of “dwelling on” these things.
- It isn’t something we only think about on Sunday mornings. It is a daily practice. The verb can also mean to “carefully consider.”
- This is not a fleeting thought. It is something we think deeply and thoroughly about.

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# Our Minds on Christ.

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- Scripture commands us to set our minds on spiritual things (Colossians 3).
- In ancient cultures, the mind was both the visceral and the cognitive aspects of thinking. This type of thinking is “to moderate from within, as inner-perspective shows itself in corresponding outward behavior.”
- It’s not just an intellectual exercise. It is a complete change in our way of thinking.
- It means “to have something as the habit of your thought, something in which you place your total interest.”

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# Our Minds on Christ.

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- These passages describe the habit of regular spiritual disciplines.
- Discipline because it requires intentionality, prayer, training and perseverance. But it's not something we manufacture ourselves; it takes absorbing ourselves in the Spirit.
- That's why it's a spiritual discipline: daily abiding in Christ, as fruit abides in a vine (John 15).
- It's not an instance-by-instance, one-time thinking about God or spiritual things. It's deliberate, continual practice.

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# Our Minds on Christ.

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- It is also a battle. In the passage we read in 2 Corinthians, Paul says we are “waging war,” and he describes these spiritual disciplines as “the weapons of our warfare” (2 Corinthians 10:3–4).
- It is easy to forget we are in a spiritual battle every day.
- God has given us the mind of Christ, but we have to fight every day to keep our minds on spiritual things.
- As Paul describes, that means destroying every thought, argument, and opinion that is not from God (2 Corinthians 10:4–6).

In Christ, we have been given a  
mindset of humility and unity

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# A Mindset of Humility and Unity

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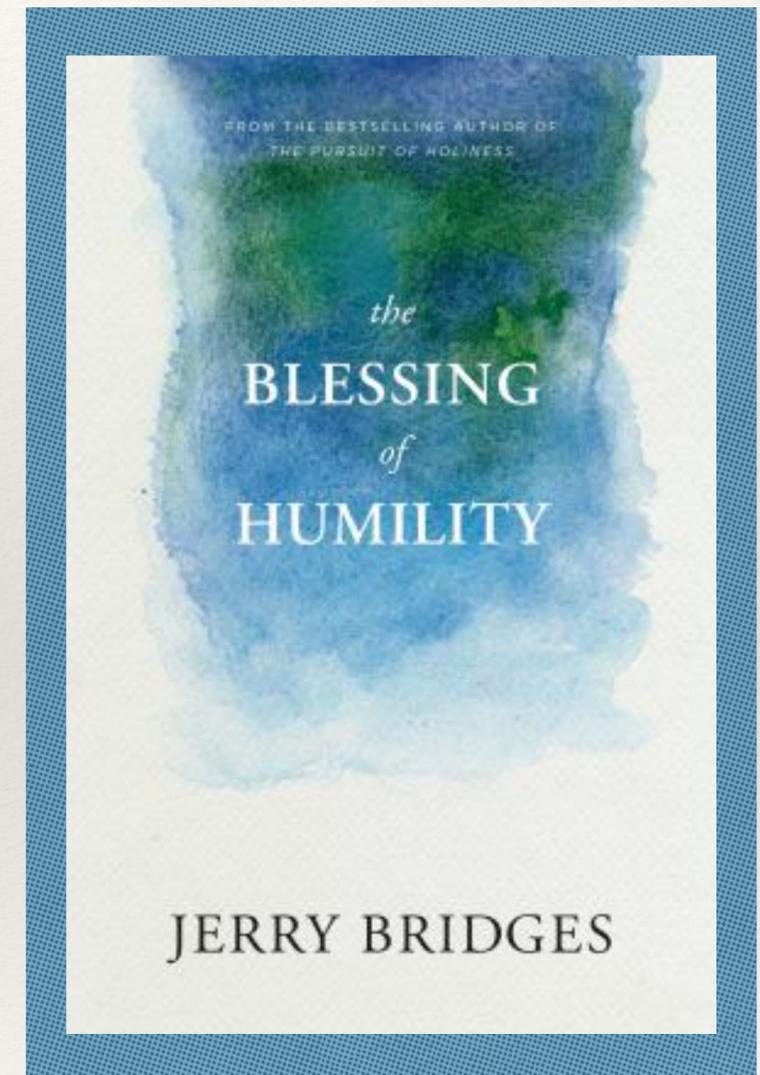
- In Christ, we have been given a mindset of humility and unity.
- Philippians 2:1-8
- Paul implores us to have the same mindset as Jesus, which he describes as one of humility and service (Philippians 2:5).
- We cannot have humility without a Gospel-centered understanding of who we are in Christ. None of us has earned our place in God's kingdom.
- None of us is better than anyone else (Ephesians 2:8-9).

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# A Mindset of Humility and Unity

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- Jerry Bridges wrote humility is the second-most frequently taught trait in the New Testament, second only to love.
- He concludes, love and humility are “the foundational stones of Christian character. All other character traits, in one way or another, are built upon love and humility.”
- As we learned in our “Advancing the Gospel” study, humility doesn’t mean thinking less of yourself. It means thinking of yourself less.



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# A Mindset of Humility and Unity

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- Jesus's life was defined by humble service to His people (Philippians 2:7).
- He said it was His entire purpose in coming to earth (Mark 10:45).
- He commanded His disciples to follow His example of humble service (John 13:13–15).
- The Church is meant to be a community that looks different from the world.
- It is only through this kind of humility that we can hope to find true unity in the Church (Philippians 2:2).

What is a Christian Worldview?

# Christian Worldview

## WHAT'S A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW?

BY DEL TACKETT  JANUARY 1, 2006



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# 1. What's a worldview?

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- A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world.
- David Noebel says, it's "any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world."
- Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision, and action.

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## 2. What's a biblical worldview?

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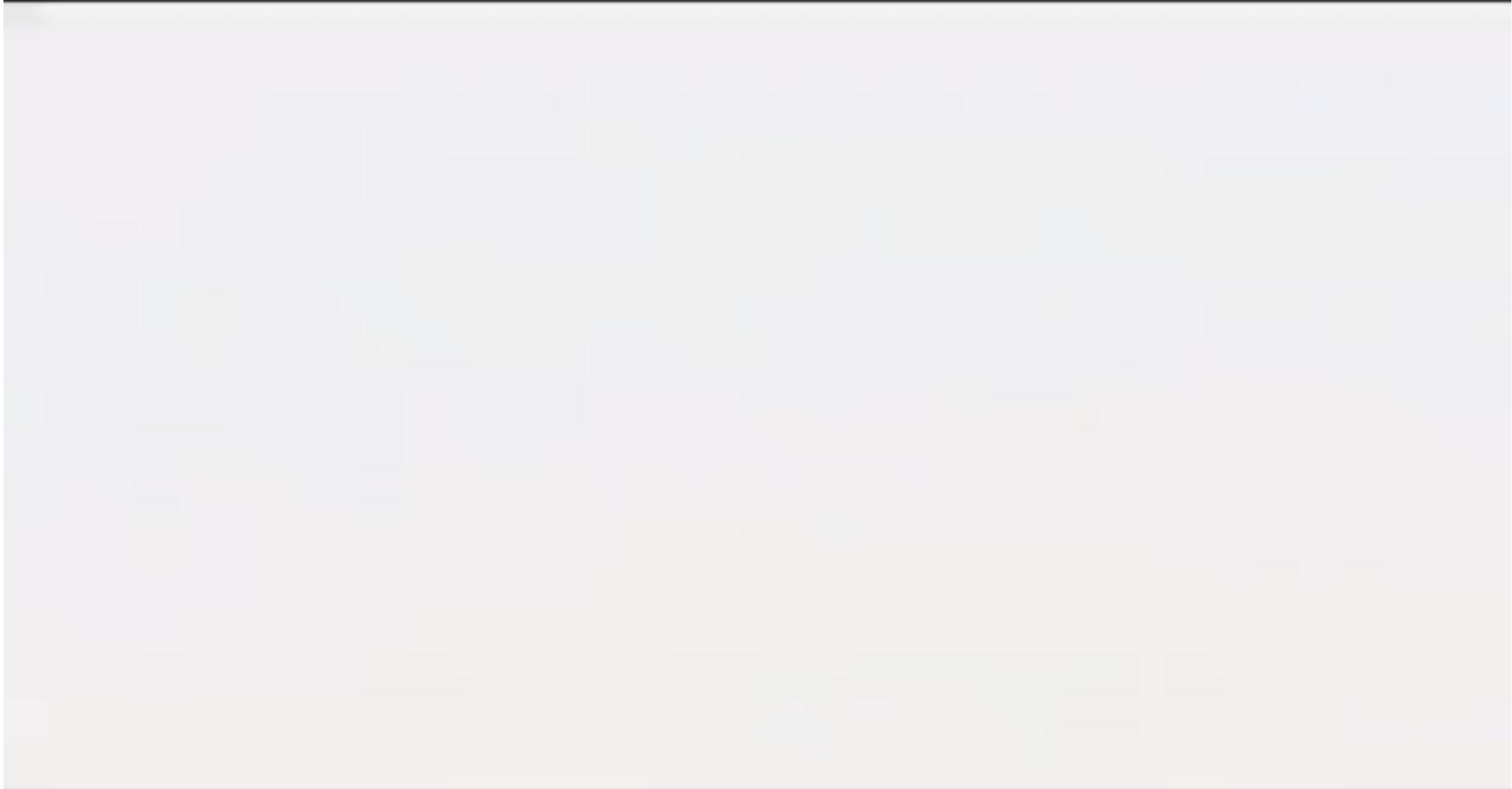
- A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God and should be the foundation of everything you say and do.
  - Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe?
  - Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?
  - Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
  - Do absolute moral truths exist?
  - Is Satan real?

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# 3. How does a biblical worldview get diluted?

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- The problem: Only 9% of born-again Christians have a biblical worldview.
- Non-biblical worldview ideas don't just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them.
- They bombard us constantly from television, film, music, newspapers, magazines, books and academia.
- Because we live in a selfish, fallen world, these ideas seductively appeal to the desires of our flesh, and we often end up incorporating them into our personal worldview.



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## 4. Why does a biblical worldview matter?

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- Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world.
- Through the media and other influences, the secularized American view of history, law, politics, science, God and man affects our thinking more than we realize.
- We then are taken “captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

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# Solution

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- By diligently learning, applying and trusting God's truths in every area of our lives, we can begin to develop a deep comprehensive faith that will stand against the unrelenting tide of our culture's non-biblical ideas.
- If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses to issues and questions in society.
- In the end, it is our decisions and actions that reveal what we really believe.