

A Christian Worldview

Col. 1:16b. *All things were created through Him and for Him.*

In this education issue, I would like to give some attention to the question of developing a Christian worldview. A worldview is the lens through which you view the world. Many people don't even realise they have a worldview, and so they never examine it.

The Christian worldview is what our schools should be inculcating in our students. So this topic is relevant to teachers as they prepare lessons. It is also relevant to readers who are not teachers. Many of them will be parents, and the school is to assist the parents in their task, and so the first place where Christian worldview should be taught is in the home. Really, it is of relevance to our whole Church community as we work together on training the next generation, for it is when we understand how all embracing the Christian worldview is, that we will realise how we need reformed education for all the subject areas, and not just for topics that fall under the religious studies banner.

The need to develop a Christian worldview is all the more important because of the way we are threatened by secularism. Secularism, which is an opposing worldview, is the idea that God and His word have no relevance to life in society. It is fine to believe in private, but your faith has nothing to do with politics, daily work, society, art, education or entertainment. The spirit of secularism says that what you hear in church on Sundays has no relevance to life in society the other six days of the week. For example, guidance in planning for the future will only be found from financial advisers, not the Bible. Secularism teaches that the Bible has nothing to say about the design of your house, where you go for holidays, business decisions, or how the country should be run.

Secularism has implications for education: if the Bible has nothing to say about these things, then the subjects connected to them don't need to be taught by Christians either. The spirit of secularism will argue that we don't need Christian math teachers, Christian HASS teachers or Christian science teachers, but only Christian teachers for religious studies.

Colossians 1:16 shows how wrong this is. It shows how the Lord Jesus Christ is connected to all of life. It states

that all things were created through the Son. Jesus Christ, the Word of God, was involved in bringing to expression the thoughts and plans of God. Everything you touch, the things you study at school, the natural world, the trees that become paper and chipboard, the raw materials from which appliances are made, the mountains and rivers and plains, the Milky Way we can see in the night sky, was all made through the Son.

Colossians 1:16 also says that all things were made for the Son. All things were created to be the kingdom over which the Son would reign. He is, as verse 15 puts it, the firstborn over all creation, the one with the firstborn right of rule.

This means that we must see every part of life in connection with the Son of God. This idea must be fundamental to the worldview we develop, the worldview we need to teach in our homes, and which the teachers need to have in mind as they train the children in the different subject areas.



This brings us back to the beginning. Genesis 1 and 2 gives the big picture of what was created through the Son and for the Son. It was a beautiful world in which everything had its place. It was a world in which man and woman were created as God's image bearers, to reflect God as they carried out the mandate to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. They were to care for the domain created through and for the Son, discover what was in it, its potential and beauty. They had to use that creation with its potential as they multiplied and spread over the earth, as they built houses, villages, cities, roads and ways of communicating between a spreading community. They needed to work

with that creation as farmers, builders, planners, scientists, artists, musicians and all the other occupations that would arise with a growing human community.

All the different subject areas at school (science, art, mathematics, language and literature, technology, computer studies, geography, etc) fit into this big picture. They all focus on different parts of the “all things” that were created through Him and for Him.

Let’s take one example: mathematics. The garden would need to expand as the population increased. Numbers would eventually be needed for the surveying work. Numbers would be needed too as processes were discovered to refine ores, not just to make shovels and ploughs, but more complicated equipment. As the community spread out all over the world, roads and bridges and transport and communication would need to be developed, which would require increasingly complicated mathematics. Think of how much mathematics it has taken to develop the types of communication (telephone, computers, etc) and transport (cars, planes, rockets) we have today. Mathematics played a role in the development of music, as man discovered how to praise God and serve his neighbour with musical instruments. Next to the practical uses of mathematics, are the doxological. Investigating mathematics would have given mankind more reasons to praise God, both for the way in which mathematical structures are present throughout the universe, as well as for the sheer beauty of mathematics itself.

We do not live in a pre-fall world anymore. Mankind rebelled against God, serves idols instead and lives in enmity with one another. The curse has come because of our sin in Adam. We see and experience plague, disease, failure, death, hostility, fighting, cruelty, and sin. The universe does not work the way it was supposed to, ruled by a united and growing population of people bearing God’s image, cooperating to develop it all according to God’s revealed will.

But the Son of God remains central. In Colossians 1:20, Paul writes that it pleased God to reconcile all things to Himself by the Son. This work of reconciliation has

broad implications. People are renewed, so they begin to live for God’s glory again. They are given renewed desires to use every part of creation in submission to Him who is the first-born over all creation. They are renewed in knowledge, so that they come to see the big picture of all things created through and for the Son, as God has revealed it in His word. They are renewed, so that they begin to live in love towards their neighbour again. They are renewed, so that they can carry out God’s will in Christian marriage, loving each other as husband and wife, helping each other to serve God in every part of life, raising a godly family together, doing their daily work to God’s glory and for the neighbour’s good. Many reject the message of reconciliation, and continue on in darkness and hostility. But believers, renewed by the Spirit, are called to live, as much as is in their power, in peace with all men. They will seek to do their daily work for their neighbour’s benefit and God’s glory.

All this belongs to the Christian worldview that the next generation needs to be taught. The details are as rich and as broad as the Word of God and the fullness of life on this earth. It will take work and study and research to work out the details of how every part of our daily lives are connected to the Son.

We need to do that as families, teaching our children and putting it into practice in our homes. The details need to be worked out by the teachers, each in their own subject area. The next generation in the Church needs to grow up with the firm conviction of what is taught in Colossians 1 – all things were created through the Son and for the Son, ... and in Him all things consist.

They must be taught that every detail of their life is to be subject to the rule of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. C. Vermeulen
FRC Armadale



LAND SAILING ON LAKE LEFROY WA