



BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

Part 2:

Thinking Biblically: The Biblical Grid



“[A Christ-centered worldview] involves three fundamental dimensions: the original good creation, the perversion of that creation through sin, and the restoration of that creation in Christ.”
(Albert Wolters, Creation Regained)



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

- **Matthew 7:24-27** – The Wiseman Builds his house on **Truth**
 - **John 14:6** – Way, Truth, Life
 - We are to build our lives on the truth of the gospel.
 - Faith acts on what is true. (**Rom 10:17**)
 - “The just shall live by faith” (**Rom 1:16,17**)

The Just


By Faith

Shall Live

The Way

The Truth


The Life



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Where and how do we begin?

1. Get serious about scripture.
 - **2 Timothy 2:15** – “study”
2. Develop a habit of memorizing key scripture.
 - **Psalm 119:9-11**
3. Find someone to help you.
 - **2 Timothy 3:14-15**
4. Learn to balance the *rhema* with the *logos*.
 - **John 5:39,40**



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Remember what we’re up against:

Upper Story: Values, Private Sphere
(Personal Preferences, Nonrational, Noncognitive, Individual Choice)

Lower Story: Facts, Public Sphere
(Scientific Knowledge, Rational, Verifiable, Binding on Everyone)


“Human reason was regarded as perfectly competent on its own for understanding the state, society, economics, philosophy—in fact, everything outside of theology. Thus the Christian mind itself began to be split. God’s Word was limited to the upper story, but was deemed irrelevant and unnecessary in directing the lower story.” (Pearcey)

A man of divided allegiance is unstable (**James 1:8**)

THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Three reminders:

1. **All worldviews start somewhere.**
2. **Whatever a worldview puts forth as self-existing is essentially what it regards as divine.** (This is called the “first principle” – a basic, foundational proposition or assumption that cannot be deduced from any other proposition or assumption)
 - Materialism/Naturalism – matter is the ultimate reality
 - Pantheism – spiritual force or substratum
 - Darwinism – biology is ultimate, religion and morality are reduced to products of natural selection
 - Empiricism – All knowledge is traceable ultimately to sense data, anything not known by sensation is unreal
3. **Alternate worldviews are not refutations of each other.**




THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

They should only gain or lose credibility based on how reasonably they answer the basic questions of life:

1. Who am I?
2. Where did I come from?
3. Why am I here (purpose or meaning)?
4. What will happen to me when I die?

In developing a Christ-centered worldview, we must understand that nothing falls outside the scope of the central turning points in biblical history: **Creation, Fall, and Redemption.**




THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

The Christ-centered worldview does not begin with "accept Christ as your Savior"
It begins with: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

There are five intrinsic requirements for life:
Space-Time, Matter-Energy, and Intelligence (Mind)

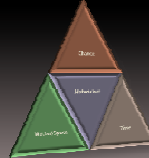
- In the beginning: Time
- God: Intelligence
- Created: Energy (force)
- The heavens: Space
- And the earth: Matter



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Materialism: Darwin 1:1 –
"In the beginning were space and matter.
And over time, chance somehow arranged the matter into complex living stuff;
And the stuff imagined God;
But then discovered Evolution."


- In the beginning: Time
- God: Intelligence
- Created: Energy (force)
- The heavens: Space
- And the earth: Matter



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Creation.
"In the beginning God created"


1. God created through His Son, God the Son.
 - **Hebrews 1:2** – "through whom also He made the world"
 - **Colossians 1:16,17** – "all things were created"
 - All things were created by Him
 - All things were created for Him
 - All things hold together in Him
 - **John 1:1** – "In the beginning was the Word"
 - *logos*: word, thought, concept.
 - Greek mind: reason and creative control.
 - **Revelation is the keynote idea in the *logos* concept.**



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Creation.
"In the beginning God created"


- **John 1:1** – "In the beginning was the Word" (cont.)
 - In this verse the Word (Christ) is said to be *with God* (in communion with and yet distinct from God) and to be *God* (identical in essence with God).
 - This divine word gives things their "nature" or identity, governing both the physical universe (laws of nature) and human life (the moral law)
 - Two magisteria? NO – both are God's Law (one is mandatory, the other is "optional")
 - Out of the moral law come the principles of morality (ethics); justice (politics); fiduciary enterprises (economics), aesthetics (the arts); clear thinking (logic); wisdom (philosophy); etc....



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Creation.
"In the beginning God created"

2. The original creation was perfect.
 - **Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, ... 31** "very good"
 - No part of creation is inherently evil or bad.
 - It is not, however, functioning in its original perfection (**Romans 8**)
 - **1 Timothy 4:4** – "everything created by God is good"
 - Christians have been known as that group that doesn't...
 - Being "spiritual" cannot be defined simply in terms of avoiding certain parts of creation



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Creation.
"In the beginning God created"

3. The creation declares His beauty and glory.
 - **General creation**
 - **Psalm 19:1** – "The heavens are telling..."
 - **Isaiah 6:3** – "The whole earth is full of His glory"
 - **Special Creation (*anthropos*)**
 - **Isaiah 43:7** – "I have created for My glory"
 - **Psalm 8:3-6** – crowned with glory and majesty
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19, 20** – we are temples where He dwells and where His glory is made evident
 - **1 Corinthians 10:31** – "Whatever you do...do all to the glory of God"



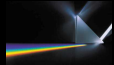
THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Creation.

"In the beginning God created"

1. God created through His Son, God the Son.
 2. The original creation was perfect.
 3. The creation declares His beauty and glory.
- Where did I come from? *A loving Creator!*
 - What is the purpose (meaning) of life? *To reflect His glory!*

"While hating sin, we should exhibit a deep love for this world as God's handiwork, seeing through its brokenness and sin to its original created goodness. We should be known as people in love with the beauties of nature and the wonders of human creativity." (Pearcey)



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