

BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED WORLDVIEW

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)



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**)

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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.

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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

Fall.

Liberal Theology

1. Arose as a result of the rationalism and experimentalism of the philosophers and scientists.
2. It basically states that whatever does not agree with reason and science is to be rejected. (*reason over revelation*)
3. As a result, liberalism has rejected the historicity of the Special Revelation.
 - The orthodox view of scripture is that it is a Special revelation of the way things really are (*revelation over reason*)
 - It is *Total Truth*

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Fall.

Liberal Theology

The Bible reveals Truth in *many* areas (but is not exhaustive).

1. Soteriology – salvation through Jesus
2. History – Man in and through time
3. Science – the creation, or natural world

<i>Orthodox Perspective on Scripture:</i>	<i>Liberal view on Scripture:</i>
Soteriology (or Theology) was verifiable by Biblical History and Scientific Revelation	Soteriology (or Theology) Secular History and Naturalistic Science

The crucial flaw in *Liberal Theology* is that it adopts the two-layer concept of truth: It accepts a naturalistic account of science and history (lower story) while trying to find meaning and value in theology (upper story)

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Fall.

Why the discussion of Liberal Theology?

- The Bible is all Truth and must be accurate when it touches on historic events and scientific insights *otherwise it is no longer verifiable.*
- If the fall is not an historical fact and universal in scope, then we can't explain the reality of evil and pain satisfactorily.
- The fall reveals Truth concerning two important questions:
 1. What is the source of evil and suffering?
 2. What went wrong?



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Fall.

1. **Genesis 3** describes an historical event.
 - Adam and Eve were historical people who sinned against God in time and space.
 - **Luke 3:38** – “the son of Adam”
 - **Matthew 19:3-5** – “Have you not read...?”
 - **John 5:46,47** – “how will you believe My words?”
 - **1 Corinthians 15:21,22** – “by a man came death”
 - **Romans 5:12-21**
 - If Adam was not a real person who brought sin into the human race at one point in history, then there is no point to Jesus’ redeeming humanity at another point in history.



THINKING BIBLICALLY: THE BIBLICAL GRID

Fall.

2. The main points of the fall.

1. *The test.*
 - A test of obedience. Will you trust and obey Me?
 - Revelation over Reason
 - Disobedience was highly consequential – it meant spiritual and physical death.
 - God’s purpose was to give Adam and Eve a knowledge of sin through obedience – by not eating of the tree.
 - They came to knowledge through disobedience.
2. *The temptation.*
 - “has God said”
 - Reason over Revelation (same temptation we fall to today!)



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Fall.

2. The main points of the fall. (cont.)

3. *The results.*
 1. Judgment on the serpent (**Gen 3:14**)
 2. Judgment on Satan (**v.15; Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14**)
 3. Judgment on the woman (**v.16**)
 4. Judgment on the man (**v.17**)
 5. Judgment on the human race (**Romans 5:12**)
 6. Judgment on creation (**v.17-18**)



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Fall.

3. The totality of the fall.

- Because of human sin, all parts of creation are caught up in a great rebellion against the Creator.
- Minds:
 - **2 Corinthians 4:3,4** – “the god of this world has blinded”
 - **Ephesians 4:17-19** – “in the futility of their mind”
 - **Romans 8:5-8** – “according to the flesh”
 - “The flesh” is the sinful will, or the will directed to self (against God – which is what sin is) – **Galatians 5:17**



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Fall.

3. The totality of the fall.

- Because of human sin, all parts of creation are caught up in a great rebellion against the Creator.
- Minds:
 - Evil and disorder are not intrinsic in the material world but are caused by human sin – God’s “good” creation used in a way that is against Him.
- Nature: **Romans 8:18-22** – “the whole creation”
 - Will be set right: **Isaiah 11:6**



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Fall.

Summary:

Using the grid: [2 Corinthians 10:5](#)

In *everything* we do, we need to begin to think and ask ourselves:

1. What is the original structure that God created?
2. How is it being distorted and directed to sinful purposes?

