

Two key questions—What is worldview? What is the biblical worldview?

Dr. George Barna, Director of Research at the Cultural Research Center, is one of the nation's leading experts when it comes to measuring and analyzing worldview and culture. For more than 30 years, measuring worldview—and specifically the biblical worldview—has been a primary focus of his research and analysis. Here is how he answers the questions, "What is worldview?" and "What is the biblical worldview?"¹

Let's start with "What is worldview?"

First off, everybody has a worldview. One way of thinking of worldview is the analogy of a computer operating system. Worldview is the operating system for human beings. It tells us how to think and how to behave. It informs and directs the choices that we make. Our moment-to-moment decisions are shaped by the worldview that we have adopted, adapted, and applied over the course of time, often without realizing that we are dependent upon such a framework for decision-making.

Whenever we are about to make a decision, we unconsciously run it through a mental, spiritual and emotional filter that allows us to make choices consistent with what we believe to be true, significant and appropriate. That filter is the result of the information and experiences we have embraced to make sense of the world in which we live.

Without a worldview, we'd be incapable of arriving at many of the hundreds of decisions we make each day because each option would seem just as appealing as every other. To make even minor choices we rely on our sense of right and wrong, good and bad, useful and useless, appropriate and inappropriate, to produce what we believe are the wisest choices.

What is the biblical worldview?

The *biblical worldview* is a means of experiencing, interpreting, and responding to reality in light of biblical perspectives. This view provides a personal understanding of every idea, opportunity, and experience based on the identification and application of relevant biblical principles so that each choice we make may be consistent with God's principles and commands. At the risk of seeming simplistic, it is asking the question, "what would Jesus do if He were in my shoes right now?" and applying the answer without concern for how we anticipate the world will react.

A *biblical worldview* is thinking like Jesus. It is a way of making our faith practical to every situation we face each day. A biblical worldview is a way of dealing with the world such that we *act* like Jesus, twenty-four hours a day, because we *think* like Jesus. Here's a helpful analogy: "It's like having a pair of special eyeglasses we wear that enables us to see things from God's point of view, and to respond to those perceptions in the way that He would prescribe if He were to provide us with direct and personal revelation."

¹ Adapted from Think Like Jesus: Make the Right Decision Every Time, by George Barna (Issachar Resources, 2003), pp. 19-22.

How does CRC measure worldview?

The Cultural Research Center uses its annual *American Worldview Inventory* to measure the worldview of American adults in eight categories of beliefs and behaviors:

- Bible, Truth, and Morals
- Faith Practices
- Family and the Value of Life
- God, Creation, and History
- Human Character and Nature
- Lifestyle, Behavior, and Relationships
- Purpose and Calling
- Sin, Salvation, and God Relationship

AWVI 2021 is the first survey of its kind to measure not only the biblical worldview of Americans, but also competing worldviews: Secular Humanism; Postmodernism; Nihilism; Eastern Mysticism; Marxism and Critical Theory; Moralistic Therapeutic Deism; and Syncretism.

For more information, please visit the [Cultural Research Center website](#).