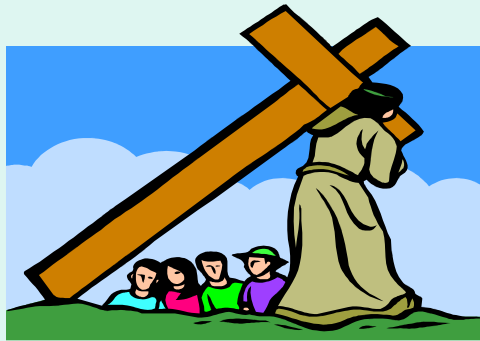


Biblical Worldview





If Jesus were to ask, “Who do you say I am,” the question He famously asked his disciple Peter, He would be disappointed by some of the answers He’d receive from contemporary Americans.

A new nationwide survey conducted by The Barna Group among a representative sample of adults explored how many have what might be considered a “biblical worldview.”

That and an article by Allan Turner, *The Importance Of A Biblical Worldview*, were the ideas for this study

- As recently as 50 years ago, the majority of Americans never really questioned biblical ethics or morality. Back then, most people looked upon divorce as disgraceful. They thought pregnancy outside marriage was a disaster; that chastity was a good thing; that an honest day's work was the responsibility of any respectable and dependable man; that honesty was the best policy. But, not today. Things have changed.
- Americans no longer view themselves and their world through the truths taught in the Bible. As a result, Americans teach their children that evolutionary theory is to be believed unquestionably. They teach them that there remains no objective standard for judging what is right or wrong. Spawned by the modernistic worldview, these ideas have produced the current decline of moral standards being evidenced in America.
- As our nation has learned to think in their hearts, so they have become (Proverbs 23:7).

- One-third of all adults (34%) believe that moral truth is absolute and unaffected by the circumstances. Slightly less than half of the born again adults (46%) believe in absolute moral truth.
- Half of all adults firmly believe that the Bible is accurate in all the principles it teaches. That proportion includes the four-fifths of born again adults (79%) who concur.
- Just one-quarter of adults (27%) are convinced that Satan is a real force. Even a minority of born again adults (40%) adopt that perspective.
- Similarly, only one-quarter of adults (28%) believe that it is impossible for someone to earn their way into Heaven through good behavior. Not quite half of all born again Christians (47%) strongly reject the notion of earning salvation through their deeds.
- A minority of American adults (40%) are persuaded that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life while He was on earth. Slightly less than two-thirds of the born again segment (62%) strongly believes that He was sinless.
- Seven out of ten adults (70%) say that God is the all-powerful, all-knowing creator of the universe who still rules it today. That includes the 93% of born again adults who hold that conviction.

For the purposes of the survey, a “biblical worldview” was defined as:

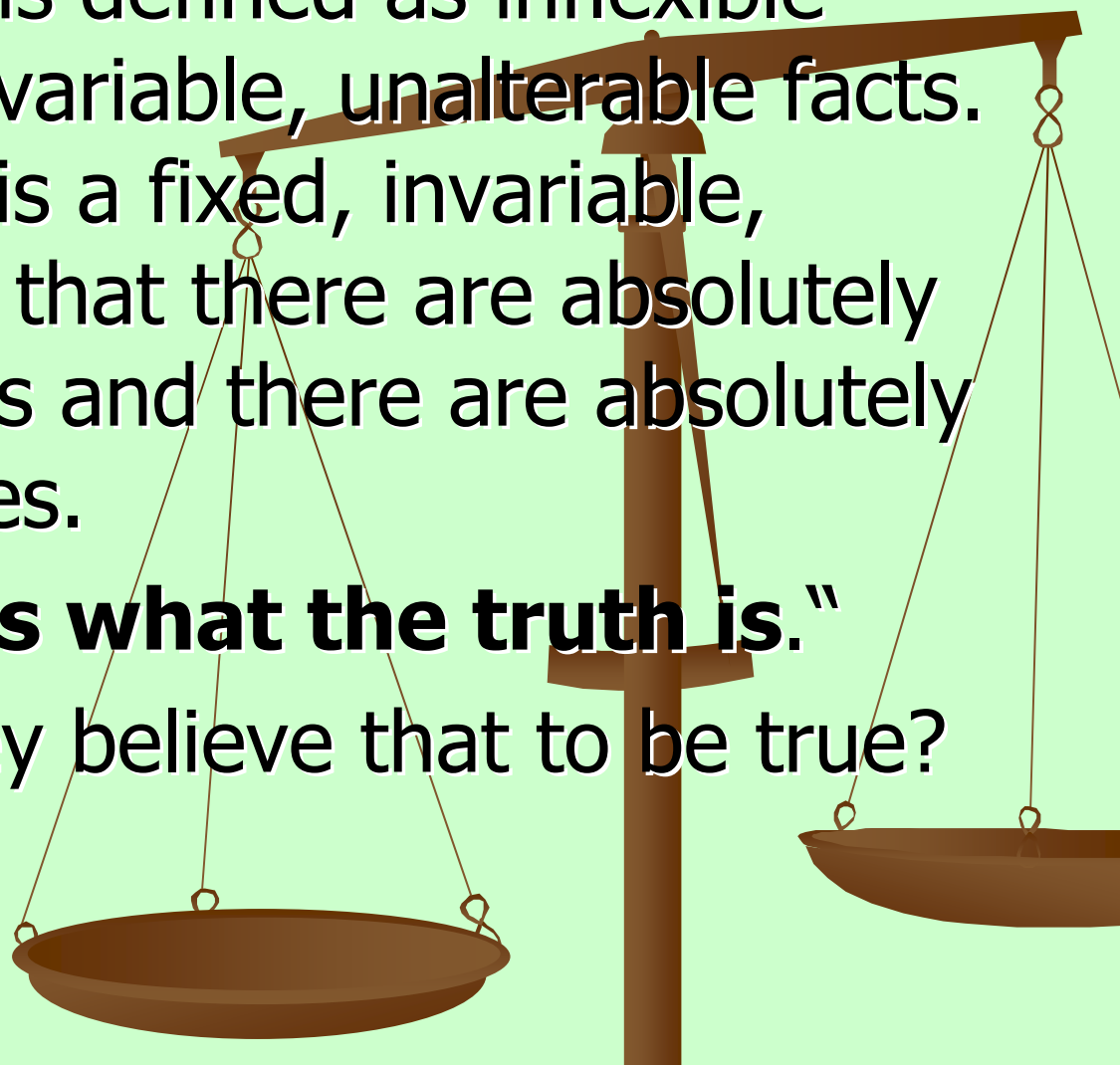
- **Believing that absolute moral truth exists;**
- **The Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches**
- **Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic;**
- **A person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works;**
- **Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth;**
- **God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.**

- **Believing that absolute moral truth exists;**

- Absolute truth" is defined as inflexible reality: fixed, invariable, unalterable facts. For example, it is a fixed, invariable, unalterable fact that there are absolutely no square circles and there are absolutely no round squares.

- **"No one knows what the truth is."**

- Ask them if they believe that to be true?



- **The Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches**
- If there are any errors in Scripture, no matter how small, the book can no longer be our standard of truth. I become the standard of truth, as I determine which Bible statements are right and which are wrong. And if I can't trust God to get the facts straight on things like dates and measurements (where I can check on Him), why should I expect Him to be more accurate in areas like sin and salvation (where I can't check on Him)?

- **The Bible doesn't use the word “inerrant,” but the idea is obvious.**
- Psalm 19:7-9— perfect, sure, pure, forever.”
- Psalm 119:43—“the word of _____.”
- Psalm 119:142—“Thy law is the _____.”
- Psalm 119:160—“Thy word is _____ from the beginning.”
- John 17:17—“Thy word is _____.”
 - **An inaccurate Bible contradicts God's character quality of absolute truthfulness.**
- Titus 1:2 - _____ cannot lie.”
- Hebrews 6:18 - impossible for _____ to lie

- Therefore, if legitimate contradictions can be found in anywhere in the Bible, then it is not the Word of God.
- Let it be noted that if the Bible does, in fact, contain a legitimate contradiction of some kind, it has not yet been found. When all the facts are considered, each alleged biblical contradiction has been shown to be something other than a true contradiction. That is a powerful statement, considering the fact that no book in the world has been examined more closely or scrutinized more carefully. After the Bible has been put under the high-powered microscope of criticism, and dissected by the razor-sharp scalpel of supposed contradictions, it rises from the surgery with no scratches or scars, none the worse for wear.

- **Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic;**
- Job 1:6-9 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?
- 1 Thess 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but _____ us.
- Rev 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where _____ is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where _____.

- **A person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works;**
- Gen 49:18 I have waited for _____, O LORD.
- Is 12:2 Behold, God is _____; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become _____.
- Eph 2:8-10 For _____ are ye saved _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; _____, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, ***created in Christ Jesus unto good works***, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- **Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth;**
- **Is 53:9** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth
- **John 8:45-47** Jesus declares this truth and it is only because we are not of God we reject this
- **1 Peter 2:22** says, "He committed _____, and no _____ was found in his mouth."
- **1 John 3:5** says, ". . . And in him is _____."

- **God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.**
- **Prov 16:1-4** The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. The LORD hath _____ for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil
- **Job 37:16** Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who is _____ ?
- **Matthew 19:26** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is _____, but with God _____."

National Results



- Overall, the current research revealed that **only 9% of all American adults** have a biblical worldview.

- Among the sixty subgroups of respondents that the survey explored was one defined by those who said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is important in their life today and that they are certain that they will go to Heaven after they die only because they confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their savior. Labeled “born again Christians,” the study discovered that they were twice as likely as the average adult to possess a biblical worldview. However, that meant that even **among born again Christians, less than one out of every five (19%) had such an outlook on life.**
- The same questions were asked of respondents in national surveys by Barna in 1995, 2000 and 2005. The results indicate that the percentage of adults with a biblical worldview, as defined above, has remained unchanged for more than a decade. The numbers show that 7% had such a worldview in 1995, compared to 10% in 2000, 11% in 2005, and 9% now. Even among born again adults, the statistics have remained flat: 18% in 1995, 22% in 2000, 21% in 2005, and 19% today.

- Barna concluded by noting that the lack of movement in the worldview status of adults reflects the fact that children are not provided with the basic ability to think in ways that correspond to foundational biblical teachings.
- He noted that Christian families, Christian schools, and Christian churches would be wise to invest more effort and tangible resources into helping young people understand and adopt the core ideas of Christianity, and to reinforce those concepts through their own lives.
- He pointed out that without such an investment, the current generational patterns indicate that the future Christian Church is likely to be one that has even less of a connection to biblical principles than is evident today.

Lest you think this something new

- a better, and easier place of living”; and that “the children of the group were being drawn away by evil examples into extravagance and dangerous courses [in Holland]“ – *William Bradford, Mayflower Journal*
- Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls, inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the Deity... and leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system.” -*Sam Adams October 4, 1790*

- Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments." *Charles Carroll to James McHenry on November 4, 1800.*
- God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel" —*Ben Franklin, Constitutional Convention of 1787 | original manuscript of this speech*

- Visitors in Washington who tour the White House often notice the beautiful fireplace in the State Dining Room. Carved into this stone mantel, just below a painting of Abraham Lincoln, are the words: "***I pray to heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.***" *Those words were originally written in a letter by John Adams to his wife Abigail after they moved into the White House. During World War II, Franklin Roosevelt found them and had them carved into the fireplace*
- Despite what may be observed in the modern church, and in the personal lives of many who claim to be Christians, the gospel of Jesus Christ is truly a dynamic force that lives in the hearts of all true believers. Its effect is so totally radical, and the transformation it makes is so revolutionary, that the Christian is actually called a "new creature," who, from a spiritual standpoint, has been "born again" (1 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:23). It is this life-changing gospel that provides the only life-giving remedy for that which ails the modern church.

The Thinking Christian

- ***Casting down arguments and . . . bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. —2 Corinthians 10:5***
- David McCullough's biography of John Adams, one of America's founding fathers and early presidents, describes him as "both a devout Christian and an independent thinker, and he saw no conflict in that." I am struck by that statement, for it carries a note of surprise, suggesting that Christians are somehow naïve or unenlightened, and that the idea of a "thinking Christian" is a contradiction. Nothing could be further from the truth. One of the great benefits of salvation is that it causes the believer's mind to be guarded by the peace of God (Phil. 4:7), which can foster clear thinking, discernment, and wisdom. Paul described this in his second letter to Corinth when he wrote that in Christ we are equipped for "casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5).
- To sift through an argument wisely, to embrace the clarity of the knowledge of God, and to align our thinking with the mind of Christ are valuable skills when living in a world lacking in discernment. These skills enable us to use our minds to represent Christ. Every Christian should be a thinking Christian. Are you? —Bill Crowder
- If you grasp the message of God's Word,
If you've learned to think things through,
Then you can defend the Christian faith
With wise words both clear and true. —Branon
- **Faith was never intended as a substitute for intelligence**
- @ RBC Ministries

- The Bible makes it clear that the one who has been truly converted—i.e., the one who has been renewed and transformed in his mind (Romans 12:1-2)—will have no trouble understanding the absolute seriousness of his spiritual and intellectual quest. Accordingly, this true disciple of Christ will be willing to “gird up the loins of [his] mind” (1 Peter 1:13). As he diligently pursues his study of the Word (2 Timothy 2:15), he will learn to consistently and effectively apply to his life the Bible’s eternal truths . In doing so, he will be both “salt” and “light” to a lost and dying world (Matthew 5:13-16). Apart from this, nothing else matters. This, the Bible says, “is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Consequently, this alone is the ultimate importance—dare I say, *focus*—of developing a biblical worldview.