

Instill A Biblical WorldView

ParentHood- Part 3

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Andy Wirt (andy@clearviewgrace.com)

Introduction:

We're in week three of a seven-week series on Parenting. I'm glad you're here today. Because, if you know kids- I think this message today will be helpful to you. I think it will be an encouragement in your quest to impact the next generation.

I'm always amazed in parenting the dichotomy that is present every day. There is great challenge in parenting... there is also great joy in parenting. This week, Silas said some things that just brighten the day. One night this week, I was putting him to bed and we were praying about this day. We prayed for his teachers. After we were done, he said, "Dad... I only have one teacher... and one helper. And, then sometimes we have *"subways"*. ☺ I told Trish that and she told me that earlier that day Silas had told her, *My "nostrige" really hurts...* I guess he got "nostril" and "Ostrich" confused. Kids make you laugh.

Then...they can also get your blood boiling. Just yesterday...I came outside trying to get the kids rounded up to get over to the parade. Seth happened to be making "stress balls" out front. Anyone know how an 8-year old makes stress balls? Well, it involves flour...and balloons. As you can imagine- there was flour everywhere. Both Seth and Silas had been pouring flour on each other. Needless to say- Seth's stress ball exercise got me stressed.

Kids bring great joy and they drive you crazy... but we love them so much. And, we want to do the best job raising them we can. I believe this good desire is in the heart of every parent.

This morning we're going to talk about one of the most important roles you will ever have. This is more important than your job. This is one of the most difficult but rewarding things you will ever do. Society will be improved if you doing your job well in this area. God's Kingdom will be expanded if you succeed here. What we're talking about this morning won't happen by accident—you must be proactive here to parent well.

I want to talk with you about instilling a biblical worldview into your children. In my home, I have 4 kids, 8 and under. Did you know that *The Barna Group found in a USA survey that the worldview of most people was established by the time they are 13, and that only 4% of adults have a biblical worldview.* If this is on target, I've got 5 more years with my oldest, Seth to shape his worldview.

Last week we said that job #1 for a parent (or anyone that knows and loves children) is to connect to their hearts. We must sew our heart to theirs. We must connect with them and through us they will see God's love.

They will see God's goodness. They will see that God breaks through sin to make their salvation possible. But, today we want to build on this foundation... job #2 is to instill a biblical worldview.

Why is this important?

I can't underscore the importance of you, mom and dad, instilling a biblical worldview in your children... because the truth is this: ***if you don't do it- someone else will. And whether that someone is another adult...or culture...or the media... or a teacher... or a school system...they will get a worldview... we all have one...and the question is this: ARE YOU GOING TO SHAPE YOUR CHILD'S WORLDVIEW AROUND GOD AND HIS WORD OR IS SOMEONE ELSE GOING TO SHAPE YOUR PRECIOUS CHILD'S WORLDVIEW AROUND THEIR AGENDA?***

This morning, we're going to look at an amazing passage on parenting. One of the main thrusts of this passage is that parents must teach their children to love God and follow Him. This isn't a role that can be left to the church or to the school system (Christian or public) or to another adult—The Bible says the chief spiritual influence in a child's life is to be mom and dad.

What is a worldview?

From Answers In Genesis

(<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n1/biblical-worldview>)

A worldview is the way we see the world—the lens through which we interpret the events and circumstances around us. A biblical worldview interprets the world from a biblical perspective, understanding that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, that God is the almighty Creator and sustainer of the universe and that our present world is suffering the effects of the Fall. Our worldview influences our understanding of God, morality, history and even ourselves.

Every person has a worldview. Most worldviews— except Christianity—are based on the concept of evolution. How we filter our understanding of the world begins to develop early in life. Parents, teachers and peers have a major impact on the worldview of children.

Deuteronomy 6, let me just set the context. It's following Deuteronomy 5. In Deuteronomy 5, Moses had just revealed the Ten Commandments, the big ten that God would challenge His people to live by. Speaking of these commandments, Moses gives, really, one of the greatest teaching on parenthood in all of scripture.

He says this (Deut. 6:1-2), *“These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, ² and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life.”*

The NIV says ² *so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live.* Moses is saying that as you teach your children to fear the Lord, as you teach them to live according to His commands, not only will you be changed, but the next generation and the generation after that will be different if we, as parents, train our children not to depend on us or themselves or what they see, but instead, on the One who created everything. ***Do you realize that as a parent, God has put within you the power to change generations and generations to come?***

Listen to God’s promise through His spokesman, Moses (Deut. 6:2b-3): *If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. ³ Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.*

The Bible always promises blessings to those who obey. You can pass down blessings through your generations by following God. How do we impact the next generation so they will impact the next generation? How do you train your children today in such a way that they will impact your grandchildren? How can you leave a godly legacy? Here are two simple ways to instill a biblical worldview in your kids.

Two keys to instilling a biblical worldview: (We’re going to look at the first one today and the second one in next week’s message.)

1. Love God

Deut. 6:4-5:

⁴ *“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

God is saying through Moses: *Moms and dads...your first priority is to love me. You must love me with your whole being.* As we talked about last week: ***Your kids will see this. They will see God’s love and goodness and provision for salvation through you. They will learn about how to respond properly to God’s grace by watching you. We must model whole-hearted commitment to God for our children. Moms and Dads must LIVE the worldview they want their children to adopt.***

God gave the Jews a system for teaching key truths about Him to their children. Verse 4 is a phrase that a devout Jew would say three times a day, morning, noon and evening. ⁴ *"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. Literally (NASB): ⁴"(E)Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the (E)LORD is one!*

God wanted His people to know Him. This verse...this phrase is so pregnant with meaning. God wanted them to know He exists. He wanted them to know that He is the only God. There is One true God. And, this One true God wants a relationship (He is our God) with His people. Profound- life changing truth- meant to be passed down generation to generation.

But, God wants His people to more than know about Him. He wants their hearts. He wants their souls. He wants their strengths. He wants all of them. ⁵ *And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

With how much of your heart should you love God? *Would you say it? "All".* With how much of your soul should you love God? With how much of your strength should you love God? **ALL!**

Notice, the scripture does not say with some, or with a little bit, or with a percentage, but *we are told to love God with all of our heart.* But wouldn't you agree that many, if not most of us- **we love God with a little bit of our hearts,** and *one of the most dangerous things that we can do as parents is expose our children to just a little bit of God.* Let me explain to you why.

What happens when you get a flu shot? What happens when you get an allergy shot? What do they put in you? *They shoot a little bit of flu into you. They shoot a little bit of allergen into you. Just a little bit. And what happens? You get immune to a little bit.*

I would argue that as parents, **so many parents unknowingly give their children just a little bit of the things of God, making them immune to all of His goodness and glory and power and majesty.** *They find themselves knowing just a little bit about God, but not knowing God personally and intimately in a life-changing way.* Scripture teaches us we should love God with all of our heart. Now, the problem is-- the world that we live in, there are a lot of things that can distract us from loving God with all of our own heart.

You know, as parents—we want to provide for our kids, and so many of us, we think to ourselves with good intentions, *"If I can just give my kids more than I had growing up, then that will be very valuable for them."* So, we work so hard pouring ourselves into our careers--trying to get more thing-- *that we are not giving our children what they really need- which is us and a deeper relationship with the only One they need to really know--God, and God alone.*

We want to provide them the best opportunity, so we get them in soccer, and ballet, and in gymnastics, and all of a sudden, *we organize their schedule so they are so busy*. And we work hard so we can provide our children with all of the nice things that the neighbors are giving their children because a child not having what they want seems borderline child abuse in our culture. Right? Yeah. And then we want to save up so they can get the greatest education, and before long, if we are not careful, we become child-centered parents rather than God-centered parents. Our lives revolve around our children rather than revolving around God. **Our kids end up seeing...just a little bit... of God.**

I heard a stat recently that church attendance has declined to 20%. Meaning this: 20% of Americans would say they regularly attend church. Guess what “regularly attend church” is defined as—*one time per month*.

Our culture...some of us... we're so busy...coaching little league, and we've got our daughter in dance class, and we're just going, going, going, going, and we're too busy for church.

God is telling us to love Him with all of our heart, soul and strength—and yet, it is so hard for so many to find time to worship with God's people and honor His name. I hear all the time—*You don't have to attend church to worship God*. True... but, God does tell us to meet together regularly as His people and I have never met a person that has an active, intimate, personal relationship with Jesus that doesn't also have a vital commitment to a healthy local church.

As parents- we can't kid ourselves. **Half-hearted commitment to Jesus will send a significant message to your children.** *Do your children see you reading your Bible? Do they see you pouring your heart out to God? Do they hear you verbalizing your faith at home and in public? How important is our involvement in church?*

And let me just say, by involvement in church what I don't mean is that you come in late, sit here for an hour and fifteen or so, and then beat it out of here to get ahead of the rush to Olive Garden. That is not involvement in church. That is a spectator sport, and that is not real involvement. Involvement is saying, *“I am a participator, a participant in the body of Christ and there is a Biblical function for me to do in my church, and I am immersed in deep growing relationships with others in Biblical community. I am a contributing part to the family of God. I am plugged in. I am contributing.”*

Why is this so important for raising spiritual champions? Well, I came across a study years ago that I thought was interesting about kids who grow up and become active Christ Followers as adults. If you are taking notes, if mom and dad went to church, then seventy-two percent of kids will as adults. That's pretty awesome. If only mom went to church, the percentage drops to fifteen percent.

Now, dads, how important is your role? If dad only went to church, it's back up to fifty-five percent. Daddies, do not ever underestimate the value of your role in disciplining and leading your children to know Christ. If neither mom nor dad went, the number drops down to only six percent of kids who will grow up and follow Christ and be active in a church.

Parents, do you love God with all of your heart, or with some of your heart? Because some, just a little bit, may not be what our kids need. They need the whole counsel, the glory of God.

What would happen if, let's say, I walk into your house unannounced and I could just observe you? What would I say about your commitment to God if I looked at the magazines that you read, sitting out on the coffee table, or if you are a bathroom reader, you know, the magazine by your toilet? What would I say my guess is about your heart? What about if I would watch the TV shows that you watch with you. What would I say about your heart? What about your computer? If I got into your computer and looked at the, your history log and saw what you read over the last month? What do you think that I would say about your heart? What if someone came in and just listened to the language that you said at your house? "Dad gum it," or much worse, what do you think someone would say about your heart for God? What about your checkbook. If someone looked at your priorities in spending, where does God rank, really? Really? Not just what you say or hope or pretend, but who you are really. You see, as parents, the best thing that we can do for our children is love God with all of our hearts. Love our God, love our God.

You may be sitting here right now and saying, "Come on Wirt... you said this message was going to be on instilling a biblical worldview in my kid...and all you've done for 20 minutes is challenge me on loving God with all my heart." You got it! If you can get this settled...If you can lock in your heart on loving God... you are going to search for Him. You are going to grow in Him. You are going to become intimate with Him. You are going to seek out His principles and His will for your life. **And, as you mesh your heart with His... God's goodness and God's principles are going to ooze out of you....and your kids will see it.** If you are in love with God...they will get a biblical worldview from watching you.

Illustration:

Seth: *Daddy prays forever.* He's seen me on my knees. *Dad, I don't know how you can pray that long. What do you have to pray about that takes that much time?*

Application:

- Do your kids see you:
 - Spending time with God
 - Participating in the life of your church and using your God-given gifts
 - Sharing your faith
 - Investing your money in God's Kingdom work

- If you were to ask them, *What is most important in life to your Mom? Dad?* What would they say?

Here is what they need to get from you for their worldview:

- a. **God exists.** Kids need to know that there is a God. This sound simplistic... but just think how important this is. Because God exists, there is order. There is hope. There is more to life than our short existence breathing on earth. There is dignity to human life. All other truth stems from this.

In Romans, Paul shares the danger of not acknowledging the existence of God. Listen to this from Romans 1:

¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.^[1] ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

*²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. **As a result, their minds became dark and confused.** ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.*

²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

It is so important that you teach your kids that God exists. Their hope for eternity, their sense of right and wrong, their self-esteem all builds off of this central truth. There is a God.

Kids are attracted to music. I drive a different school bus route almost every day. Almost every route- the first question is: *Can you turn the radio on?* Kids love music. One of the things we have done in our house that has worked well so far is to expose Seth to worship music.

I love seeing him plugged into his iPod and singing along because what I hear is worship. I hear God's goodness. I hear God's power. I hear mission as he listens to songs from the Passion Worship movement or Hillsong United... *he's getting "God exists" through music.*

b. God is One. ⁴"(E)Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the (E)LORD is one! God wants your children to know that He is the only one true God. There is to be one ruler of their lives. There is to be one source of truth for right and wrong. There is to be one focus for their worship. Other people will teach multiple Gods. Most people will make a god (small "g") out of themselves. Our children must know that there is One true Father, One true Creator, One true Savior.

c. God is Creator

Genesis explains the origin of everything except God Himself. This has huge ramifications for so many important areas of life.

- God created the earth. Believers should care for nature because it is God's.
- God created human life. God gave us dignity. God gave us eternity. Here begins teaching on the sanctity of human life.
- God made each person special. Your kids need to know that they are a unique design- with a God given purpose, God-given gifts, God-given/stamped personality, appearance...

In all of these truths, but especially this one (God as Creator), we need to not only teach our children a biblical worldview, we need to equip them to do battle in defending it.

I read an article this week (by Jay Wegter at <http://www.frontlinemin.org/teachworldview.asp>) that opened my eyes to this. Listen to this:

Biblical worldview equips students for effective evangelism by instructing them how to conduct a 'clash' between worldviews. Unlike evangelism in the recent past; our struggle now involves a 'worldview clash'. The unbeliever's faulty worldview must 'collide' with the timeless truth of God's Word so that the unbeliever sees where he opposes God. It is only the Word of God that is capable of deconstructing the unbeliever's faulty worldview.

This 'clash' between worldviews is necessary because in today's world knowledge has been privatized into personal opinions without absolute truth. And, without truth claims there can be no objective sin or evil—one is left with a domesticated God who does not judge, govern, or redeem (D. A. Carson, "Reaching Postmoderns with the Gospel").

We now live in a world in which religious truth and error are no longer mutually exclusive—they are just different ideas with no one ‘view’ constituting absolute truth. Pastor Tim Keller comments on this phenomenon: “The Western world now is a mission field never faced before—it is ‘ex-Christian’. It has been inoculated; but retains only a distorted memory of Christianity; a memory of Christianity as the age of prejudice. With the memory of prejudice comes the commonly held notion that Christianity cannot be credible because there cannot be one true religion to the exclusion of all others” (Tim Keller, “Evangelizing Postmoderns”).

This is why biblical worldview is so desperately needed—it instills boldness in believers. It enables them to step out of ‘privatized Christianity’ and into effective evangelism. Biblical worldview imparts a pervasive confidence that there are biblical answers to every important life question.

Let me ask you a serious question. *What do the people that have influence in your child’s life believe about “God Is Creator?”* You’ve got to know the answer to that question. We have to do the work to find out what teachers or people of influence in my child’s life believe here. Because it will come out in their influence on my child. I need to know where truth will be taught and where I need to be ready, as a parent, do lead a “worldview clash” for my kid.

- d. God has revealed Truth.** Culture will tell us that truth is whatever you make it to be. Whatever you want it to be- that is truth for you. You are god of yourself and therefore you can decide what is true and what to believe. Your kids are going to get that message on TV, they’re going to hear it from their friends, and get it driven home in school.

We need to be absolutely clear with our kids that God exists and God has revealed Himself and absolute Truth to us in His Word. Our kids need to understand that there is objective truth outside of themselves. It is found in God and God’s love letter to us. There is right and wrong. There are standards to live by.

- e. God has provided standards.**

I find myself trying to explain to my kids that I must punish them when they do wrong because God had given them a mommy or daddy to teach them to obey. One of my central roles is to model for them and teach them God’s instructions for life. Since God exists, and He is Who He is—He has the right and He has given us right and wrong.

Kids need to know why we have the standards we do. A few weeks ago we had this great interaction with Seth. He spoke to his sister in a way that wasn't encouraging. We were talking with him about his mouth and the importance of guarding his words and so we used it as a learning opportunity to know why we teach what we do. We got out the Bible and had Seth read ALL 32 verses of Ephesians 4. In there we see things like verse 1:

I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

And verse 29:

²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Our kids need to know that God has given us instructions to follow.

f. God has made a way for salvation.

g. Life is best when loving God and following His ways.

2. Lead Well

- You connect (to God and your children)
Barna: Your impact on your children's lives is proportional to the depth of the relationship you have fostered with them.
- You lead your home (your kids do not)
- You set the agenda (culture does not)

Conclusion:

Parenting is job one. See Barna ppgs.24-25

What is a spiritual champion? Barna's description on xvi-xvii

ClearView Challenge:

Resources: