

WRETCHED WORLDVIEW 2



STUDY GUIDE



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How to Use This Curriculum

In the cacophony of voices that demand our attention, how can we be sure we form the right perspective on the myriad of issues that confront us? Wretched Worldview will equip you with a 7-part framework for developing a truly biblical position on any topic. After watching all 22 episodes, you will be trained to boldly approach any question and thoughtfully develop a position that is soundly biblical.

Introduction to Wretched Worldview (Lesson 1)

The first lesson of Wretched Worldview provides a scripted lesson plan to help you introduce your student to the idea of a worldview and how it should inform our opinions and positions on any given topic. The lesson includes two video clips. The first breaks down the 7 steps for building a biblical worldview perspective on any given topic. The second is an example of how to use the framework, examining the biblical perspective of the “Life of the Mind.” This lesson builds the foundation for the following episodes.

Topical Episodes (Lessons 2–22)

The remaining 21 lessons deal with specific topics that are of significant interest in today’s culture. You may choose to complete these episodes in order, or choose the ones that are most engaging to your students. The goal of these episodes is to train students to intentionally develop biblical positions, thus strengthening a biblical worldview foundation. You may choose either of the approaches listed below, or use a combination of the two.

Discussion Approach

Each episode is accompanied with a discussion guide with questions to help you generate discussion among your students. Although each episode does conclude with a biblical position on the topic in question, the goal is not to convince a student of a certain position. Wretched Worldview is intended to help students learn how to think through a topic in a way that should result in a truly biblical perspective. To this end, the questions are developed to encourage students to think through the process as much as the issue itself.

You may choose to watch the episode in its entirety (generally 15-18 minutes long) and then use your remaining time for dedicated discussion using the guides provided.

Alternatively, you may wish to pause the video after each step and spend a few minutes discussing how the topic was handled in that section. The discussion guides are organized by step to facilitate this approach.

Hands-on Approach

The hands-on approach gets students engaged in the process of developing biblical perspectives. Use the provided worksheet template to have students work through the topic for that lesson. For the first few weeks, this may be best done walking through the steps as a class. After completing the worksheet, play the video and use any remaining time to discuss the video, discussing ways your students can improve their process.

As your students become more familiar with the process and more adroit at employing it, you may wish to maximize engagement by having students work together in small groups, pairs, or individually. You may even extend the series by choosing topics of specific concern to your group and challenging your students to work through the process (during the week or at the beginning of the class) and then discussing how they arrived at their positions.

The 7-Step Process

Wretched Worldview employs a 7-step process for developing a biblical position on a given topic. The first video episode explains the process.

1. Pre-understandings—identify and set aside all pre-understandings
2. Explicit Bible Verses—examine verses that speak directly to the topic
3. Implicit Bible Verses—examine verses that are not direct but provide helpful insight
4. Gospel—consider how the Gospel of Jesus Christ informs us on the issue
5. Historic Christian Position—consider what the Christian church has historically believed about the topic
6. Personal Testimony—evaluate how your personal testimony may be affected by your position
7. Common Objections—handle common objections in light of the biblical understanding developed through the first 6 steps.

TOPIC:

Pre-understandings:

-
-
-

Explicit Verses:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Implicit Verses:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Gospel:

Personal Testimony:

Historic Christian position:

Common Objections:

-
-
-
-

My Position:

Lesson 1

Worldview



Introduction

Explain to your students that you are going to call out a variety of issues we deal with in the world today. For each one, they should raise their hand if they have a position or some idea about what to think about the topic. Quickly call out a list of issues (e.g., environmentalism, gambling, dating, entertainment, tithing, music, etc.).

Ask: What informs your position?

How do you decide where you stand on an issue? Allow discussion.

We often rely on experiences, feelings, and anecdotes to form our opinions. But as Christians, we should be starting with the Bible as our authority and foundation for determining how to deal with these important issues. We must intentionally cultivate a biblical worldview.

Define: A worldview is the way someone views or thinks about the world. Everyone has a worldview, whether you realize it or not. So a biblical worldview is when we approach the world with an understanding that comes from God's Word.

Explain: In this series, we are going to look at how to develop and strengthen a biblical worldview. Specifically, we are going to learn a process that will help us to consider an issue from a biblical starting point. Our first video will explain how we are going to do that.

Play Wretched Worldview Introduction.

Discuss: Ask students to respond to the video. Clarify any parts they may have questions about, define any terms they may not have known. Ask students what they think about the approach. If it seems daunting, assure them that we are going to go through some challenging issues together, and it will make more sense as we work through these examples.

In fact, let's do a little test-run right now. How do we know that developing a biblical worldview on a topic is what we should be doing? Let's walk through these steps together.

Play Wretched Worldview—Life of the Mind.

Note: Use the included Worldview Worksheet and walk through each step together as a class. This should be a fairly obvious topic, but the point is to see the process in action. Don't merely give the students answers to each step, but help them to walk through the process in their own thinking. The points below are provided as a starting point, but are in no way exhaustive.

Discuss: Use the following to guide discussion.

Pre-understandings: What ideas might someone already have about this topic? Consider both opponents and supporters.

- It is imperative that we develop biblical perspectives on every issue.
- The Bible doesn't speak to every issue.
- Who cares what the Bible says.
- We should have a biblical stance on the core Gospel issues, but other issues aren't as big a deal.

Explicit verses: Do you know of any Bible verses that may help us to think through this issue?

- Note: you may need to supply students with study resources like concordances, or supply references and allow them to think through how they apply.
- Romans 12:1—We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (i.e., thinking and behaving like Christ not the world).
- Colossians 3:2—We should operate from an eternal perspective.
- 1 John 4:1—We are not to believe everything we hear but to test it against the truth of God's Word.

Implicit Verses: What verses may not speak directly about thinking biblically but can help us understand the topic?

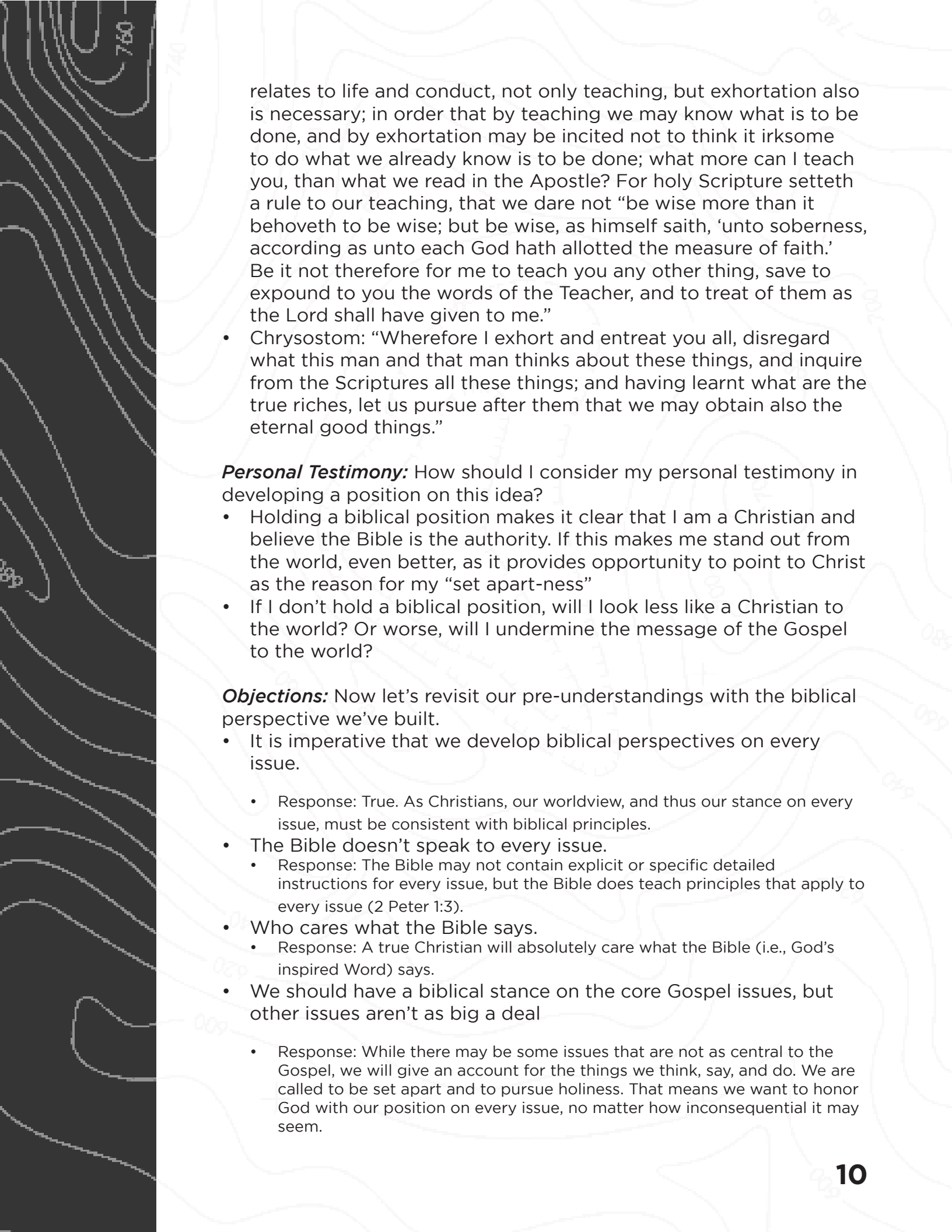
- Philippians 4:8—We are called to protect our minds and pursue what is true and honorable.
- 1 John 2:6—If we abide in Christ, our life (and thus our stances on difficult issues) should imitate Him.
- Ephesians 4:22–24—We are to put off our old self (and thus worldly ideas) and put on the new self (i.e., righteousness and holiness).

Gospel: How does the Gospel inform our thinking on this topic?

- As those transformed by the Gospel, we are to be about the process of sanctification—growing in holiness.
- As those transformed by the Gospel, we are given the ability through the Holy Spirit to understand the spiritual truths spoken in Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:13–14).

Historical Christian perspective: How did men of faith throughout history view Scripture in relation to forming a position?

- Note: this section will likely be difficult for students to engage in during class, unless you have prepared some resources or quotes for them to use. You may wish to simply demonstrate this step.
- Athanasius: "The Holy Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, are of themselves sufficient toward the discovery of truth."
- St. Augustine: "Whereas, therefore, in every question, which



relates to life and conduct, not only teaching, but exhortation also is necessary; in order that by teaching we may know what is to be done, and by exhortation may be incited not to think it irksome to do what we already know is to be done; what more can I teach you, than what we read in the Apostle? For holy Scripture setteth a rule to our teaching, that we dare not “be wise more than it behoveth to be wise; but be wise, as himself saith, ‘unto soberness, according as unto each God hath allotted the measure of faith.’ Be it not therefore for me to teach you any other thing, save to expound to you the words of the Teacher, and to treat of them as the Lord shall have given to me.”

- Chrysostom: “Wherefore I exhort and entreat you all, disregard what this man and that man thinks about these things, and inquire from the Scriptures all these things; and having learnt what are the true riches, let us pursue after them that we may obtain also the eternal good things.”

Personal Testimony: How should I consider my personal testimony in developing a position on this idea?

- Holding a biblical position makes it clear that I am a Christian and believe the Bible is the authority. If this makes me stand out from the world, even better, as it provides opportunity to point to Christ as the reason for my “set apart-ness”
- If I don’t hold a biblical position, will I look less like a Christian to the world? Or worse, will I undermine the message of the Gospel to the world?

Objections: Now let’s revisit our pre-understandings with the biblical perspective we’ve built.

- It is imperative that we develop biblical perspectives on every issue.
 - Response: True. As Christians, our worldview, and thus our stance on every issue, must be consistent with biblical principles.
- The Bible doesn’t speak to every issue.
 - Response: The Bible may not contain explicit or specific detailed instructions for every issue, but the Bible does teach principles that apply to every issue (2 Peter 1:3).
- Who cares what the Bible says.
 - Response: A true Christian will absolutely care what the Bible (i.e., God’s inspired Word) says.
- We should have a biblical stance on the core Gospel issues, but other issues aren’t as big a deal
 - Response: While there may be some issues that are not as central to the Gospel, we will give an account for the things we think, say, and do. We are called to be set apart and to pursue holiness. That means we want to honor God with our position on every issue, no matter how inconsequential it may seem.

The background of the page is a topographic map with contour lines and elevation markers. The left side features a dark vertical band with white contour lines. The rest of the page is light gray with white contour lines and numerical elevation markers such as 760, 740, 720, 700, 680, 660, 640, 620, 600, 580, 560, 540, 520, 500, 480, 460, 440, 420, 400, 380, 360, 340, 320, 300, 280, 260, 240, 220, 200, 180, 160, 140, 120, 100, 80, 60, 40, 20, 0. There are also small white crosshair symbols scattered across the map.

Conclusion

As Christians, it is important that we frame our thinking from a biblical perspective, and that only comes from intentionally organizing our thoughts with a priority on Scripture. We don't automatically get a biblical worldview when we become a Christian. We must train our minds to think biblically. We must cut through the voices of the world and even well-meaning Christians to get to the solid foundation of Scripture. I hope that this 7-step process will help you to organize your thoughts and to build a truly biblical worldview. In the coming weeks, we will tackle some difficult issues. But as you will see, following this framework will help us simplify the issues and formulate truly biblical positions.