

## What is a Worldview?

A worldview refers to the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual interprets the world and interacts with it. You could say that a worldview is the **grid** through which you look at the world and interact with it. It is how you look at things. It is how you think. What you believe shapes your worldview, what your convictions are, and what you do. It is important that these ideas and beliefs are from God's point of view. A worldview that is shaped by the world will come out with the world's ideas, thoughts, attitudes, worldly wisdom, and application.

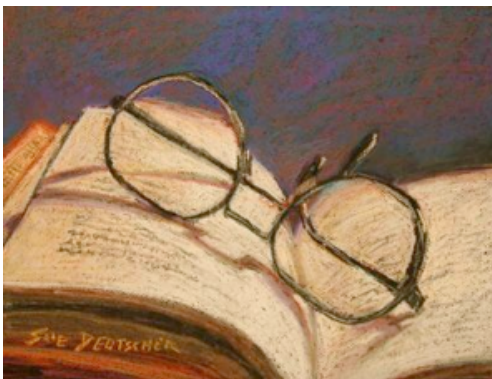
In Romans 12:2, the word *mind* is a key word, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your **mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The word mind here is distinctly *the reflective consciousness*. Cremer says "The mind is the organ of moral thinking and knowing, the intellectual organ of moral sentiment."<sup>1</sup> The mind is comprising alike the faculties of perceiving and understanding and those of feeling, judging, determining.<sup>2</sup> The kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of God will develop different worldviews. They will develop different mindsets. When our worldview is formed by the values of the world, we make decisions from that point of view. When our worldview is formed by the values of God (the Bible), we make decisions from that point of view.

Our worldview must not be formed from reaction, but from the Word. Ephesians 4:23-24 says "And be renewed in the spirit of your *mind*; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

A person's worldview is primarily interpreted by the actions it produces. 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us the reason the world's view cannot work for the Christian: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

When we approach any issue, our *reflective consciousness* needs to be influenced by the holiness, sovereignty, and eternity of the living God. One of God's purposes for the born-again experience was for us to think and act like God because the Holy Spirit is living in us, not just from laws written on paper. A correct worldview will always conserve the principles of morality, honesty, purity, modesty, simplicity, and spirituality. Application may look different in different cultures, but application will always conform to these same standards and principles. Our worldview will not change with new things introduced into society, because our thinking is rooted in principles that do not change. Our standard is never "two years behind the world," because God's standard never changes.

Another way to think of worldview is like a pair of glasses. You need the right prescription to get the clear picture.



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<sup>1</sup> Strong's Talking Greek/Hebrew Dictionary

<sup>2</sup> Vine's Expository Dictionary of the Old Testament and New Testament Words