



Biblical Worldview and its Application

Worldview and Social Brokenness

We recognize that the **root cause** of all forms of social brokenness is ultimately the set of ideas, beliefs, and values to which people hold and by which they govern their lives – in other words, their **worldview**. These include ideas about ultimate reality, human life, the physical world, and the meaning or purpose of life and history.

We recognize that these ideas and beliefs not only shape human behavior but also the systems and institutions that are developed and sustained by people. These systems and institutions also contribute to social brokenness. (E.g. unjust economic systems, government policies, institutionalized corruption, structural injustices, etc.)

We passionately believe that **all truth is God's Truth**, and that **truth has the power to transform** people, nations, and the systems and institutions that people create and support. We believe that the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God and reveals God's Truth to all people about the nature of ultimate reality, the source of evil, the origin and nature of the physical universe, the meaning and purpose of human life, and the goal of history.

This God-centered, Bible-centered perspective of reality is what we mean by a **Biblical Worldview**. Our application of this Biblical worldview impacts everything we do leading to the transformation of people and nations.

Twelve Transforming Truths

In particular, we champion twelve specific **Transforming Truths** from Scripture. While not meant to be an exhaustive list, we believe that as we order our lives according to these truths, allowing them to shape and direct our ministry, and lovingly sharing them with those we serve, we will see transformed lives. These truths are:

1. The universe is ultimately personal/relational (God is a person)
2. The universe is intelligible (God is rational)
3. The universe is moral (God is good/loving)
4. Human life is sacred
5. Humankind is in rebellion against God and needs reconciliation through Jesus the Christ
6. All people and all nations are of equal worth
7. Each person and each nation is unique
8. Work is sacred
9. Creation is an open system
10. People are to exercise dominion and stewardship of creation
11. History is directional – God works in history to fulfill His purposes
12. Bounty can be created and stewarded

Therefore, we covenant to:

1. Progressively understand and align both our personal and corporate lives to this Truth.
2. Progressively understand and identify counterfeit beliefs and values (those that do not align with the Biblical worldview) that hinder us in our personal growth, as well as those we serve. As we recognize these counterfeit beliefs in our lives, we repent. As we recognize them in the people and communities we serve, we lovingly and prayerfully confront them with the Truth out of a desire to see them rise to their full God-given potential.
3. Affirm that Truth and lies (counterfeit beliefs) are present in all cultures. When we recognize Truth in any culture, we joyfully affirm it and look for ways to reinforce or strengthen it.
4. Design our training, fundraising, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and other support systems in a way that aligns with and supports a Biblical worldview.
5. Develop innovative, Biblical sector-specific resources and curricula that align with, and are designed to transfer the Twelve Transformational Truths.

We are intentional and committed to thinking, analyzing and working with the Bible, people and social brokenness to fulfill God's intent "to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven by making peace through his blood shed on the cross." Colossians 1:20

For many years, I worked off and on in Guatemala, and returned a number of times to find there was little positive change for all the well-intentioned development efforts. Poverty was rampant, children were not in school, the villages were trash-strewn and disheveled. Then in 2002, I returned as Regional Director of Food for the Hungry operations in Latin America. To my great astonishment, things had radically changed. New schools had been built, parents were working hard, their view of their children and the importance of education had changed. They saw their children as image-bearers of God with lives full of dignity and purpose. I was astounded! What was the difference? They had been taught a biblical worldview, and particularly a biblical understanding of human life and purpose. - Buck Deines