

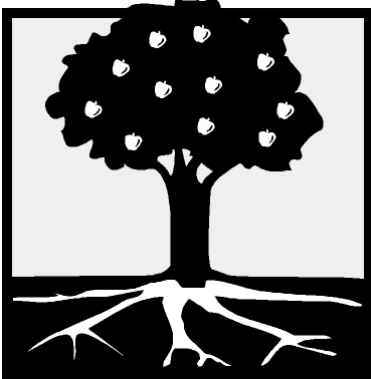
## The Power of Worldview to Shape a Nation

Today, many Christians have found the concept of “worldview” helpful when considering their engagement with culture. When we speak of worldview, we are referring to the total set of beliefs or assumptions that comprise the mindset of individuals and determine how they view reality. Our worldview not only determines how we see the world, but more importantly, it determines the kind of society and nation we build.

The Bible reveals a fundamental principle, “For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Pr. 23:7 KJV). When we accept Christ as Savior, our mindsets need to be renewed. The word “repent”—from the Greek word *metanoeo*—literally means to change one’s mind, to see the world the way God created it and living within that framework, to put on the mind of Christ (Rom. 12:2). This principle applies to entire cultures as well as individuals. Within a particular group of people (a society) the dominant ideas that are held by the majority of people form the culture. The spiritual realm impacts the physical realm at the level of culture. Or to put it differently, we build societies like the God or god(s) that we worship (Ps. 115:4-8). The key to cultural transformation, therefore, lies in the transformation of the mindset or worldview of a people.

Two agricultural analogies show the relationship between ideas and the real-life, culture-shaping consequences that flow from them. The first analogy of sowing and reaping is found in the book of Galatians. “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Gal. 6:7). The seed (ideas, beliefs) that you sow will determine the fruit (real-world consequences) that you reap. The second analogy is found in the book of Matthew where Jesus said:

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them (Mt. 7:15-20).



Just as the quality of the soil and roots of a tree determine the quality of the fruit produced, so it is with our ideas. If our beliefs are shaped by the revealed Truth in Scripture and acted upon, then the fruit of our lives will show the evidence in healthy, joyous and free existence. Ideas have consequences.

The Bible is far more than a book of religion. It is more than a message of salvation—as central as that is. The Bible is the source of a comprehensive world and life view—indeed, the only worldview that conforms to reality as it truly exists. Only the biblical worldview is capable of providing the foundation for living lives of freedom, justice and compassion, the foundation for building healthy nations. The rule of law, personal liberty, economic freedom, internal self-government, civic (community) responsibility, and respect for human rights are virtues derived from a biblical worldview. These virtues lead to increased social harmony, economic sufficiency, legal justice and national development. Thanks to God, through His Word, His Spirit and the living example of His Son, He has provided us with a worldview adequate for the development of our nations.

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To explore the impact of worldview on cultural transformation in greater depth, we recommend the following: [Discipling the Nations: the Power of Truth to Transform Culture](#) by Darrow Miller with Stan Guthrie (Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 1998), and [The Worldview of the Kingdom of God](#) by Scott Allen, Darrow Miller and Bob Moffitt (Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 2005).