

# ANCHORED

## Lesson 1: Worldview

### DAY 1

**Anchor Statement:** A person's worldview, or what they believe to be true, is learned and influenced by the world around them. It is also displayed in their thoughts, words, and actions.

This week, we are defining worldview. That means understanding where our beliefs come from and how they impact the way we think and act. This may seem like a strange thing to do, but it provides believers with a better understanding of themselves and the people they are seeking to share Jesus with. In the book of Hebrews, we are told that people will hear the Good News, that Jesus died in our place so that we could have a repaired and eternal relationship with God. After hearing this, they either come to a life-changing faith (have their worldview altered) or they view it as 'not beneficial' and remain in great need.

*For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. – Hebrews 12:2*

Talking about worldview in a church context doesn't only mean learning why two people from different backgrounds might think or act differently. It means also looking at what happens when those two people who have nothing in common are unified in the belief that Jesus Christ is their Savior.

#### Something To Think About:

- What are some things/people that have shaped what you believe about yourself and others?
- What are some things/people that have shaped what you believe about the world?
- Think of a person who is very different than you. It can be somebody you know or a character on a television show or movie. Try to imagine how they would answer the two previous questions. What are some of the big differences?

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### DAY 2

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing, you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

In theatrical professions, there is something called method acting. This style of acting requires someone to not only practice their lines and get fitted for their character, but to become the person that they are trying to act as. It can take a lot of time to perfect, and some people have talked about feeling 'stuck' as their character even after they are done with their role.

This shows us something very interesting about humanity that can be found outside of actors and actresses. When we alter our worldview, we alter everything about ourselves. If we are trying to be someone so much that we have adapted their ways of thinking about themselves, others, and the world around them, then we have changed our worldview. You may try to convince yourself it is temporary, but the things you allow to influence you can have lasting effects.

When the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Romans, he was writing to people who had a very similar worldview as the average United States citizen. Rome would have been equally obsessed with wearing something fancy AND starting war. They were, at one point, the center of Western Culture. And with so many things available to a Roman person, it was easy for them to become whoever they wanted.

This is exactly why Paul encouraged them (and us) to anchor their worldview in what God deems good and perfect. If our beliefs come from the world alone, then we think and act the way the world does. But if we allow God to take charge and believe in Him, we will be transformed into something more awesome than we could have ever become on our own.

#### Something To Think About:

- What is an area that you have been conformed to the world in your thoughts or beliefs?
- Think of some things that have influenced you (and most of your friends) that may not be around in fifty years. How could Romans 12:2 be important for your context and in the life of a student fifty years from now, even though you don't share the same experiences?
- How can you ask God to transform your mind today?

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### DAY 3

Today, you are going to think about your own worldview. Start by grabbing three different colored pens, markers, or pencils. On a blank piece of paper, draw one large circle.

Using writing utensil number one, write words that describe the world in the circle. You may even write down words that don't seem to fit together, like exciting and scary. Your goal is to get at least ten words in your circle.

Next, using writing utensil number two, draw a line from one word in the circle to a space outside of the circle. Write down a sentence that describes why you chose this word. So, for example, you might have written the word beautiful. At the end of your line, you would probably write something like, "In the world, there are mountains, canyons, and rivers that all bring beauty." Do this with a few words in your circle. Once you are done, take a look at the new picture. What you are seeing is a version of how you view the world and why. With your final writing utensil, write out this verse on your paper:

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*  
(Colossians 3:17)

If you look at how you view the world and why, you may wonder what it has to do with the verse you just wrote down. In our lesson, we talked about how our worldview directly influences our words and actions. In Colossians 3:17, we see that God is calling us to let one thing influence our actions above all else: the name of Jesus.

As you put your writing utensils away and go on about your day, think about which things in your circle might be causing your words and deeds (or actions) to not reflect God. And even if what's inside the circle is not problematic; you may ask God in prayer to work on some of the things that you have written outside the circle. Sometimes, we may have a correct view but a poor belief to back it up. If you ask God to help you live more like Colossians 3:17, He will help you! You may just end up scratching out some of the things in your circle.