

Curing Worldview Myopia: How Christian Academics Can Develop a Clear Christ-Centered Worldview

Developing a comprehensive worldview that is Christ-centered and biblically-grounded is one of the most important tasks Christian academics face today. There are three common maladies affecting our Christian worldview—three types of myopia, or short-sightedness in our worldview. Thankfully, there are treatments for each type of worldview myopia, and these treatments can give us a clearer perspective on the world and help us think and live with a truly Christian worldview.

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Type #1 Myopia: Epistemological myopia

- A worldview that is too narrow, because it neglects Christ's Lordship over *all* things.
- Epistemologically-truncated worldview.
- Christ's lordship is spiritual, but not comprehensive and all-encompassing.
- Results in ontological schizophrenia.
- There are two worlds: the sacred and the secular, and Christ is Lord only of the sacred.

Treatment for epistemological myopia:

Type #2 Missiological Myopia

- A worldview that is not global, because it neglects the global mission of Christ to all peoples and all nations.
- Missiologically-truncated worldview.
- Christ's lordship is either primarily cerebral or spiritual, but not both.
- Results in missiological schizophrenia.
- There are two worlds: the world of evangelism/missions and the world of the intellect, and Christ is the Lord of one or the other but not of both.

Treatment for missiological myopia:

Type # 3: Spiritual Myopia

- A worldview that is not passionate for Christ and fervent in obedience to Him.
- Spiritually truncated worldview.

- Christ's lordship is important but mostly as a scholarly concern, abstract and theoretical, not personal and passionate in worship, leading to a holy life in obedience to his lordship.
- Results in spiritual schizophrenia.
- There are two worlds: intellectual and personal, and Christ is Lord of the intellectual but not Lord of the personal.

Treatment for spiritual myopia:

Suggested Readings:

Blamires, Harry. *The Christian Mind: How Should a Christian Think?* Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Books, 1963. Reprint, First American Edition 1978. Classic book attacking the sacred/secular dichotomy and advocating vibrant Christ-centered thinking.

Coleman, Robert Emerson, and Roy J. Fish. *The Master Plan of Evangelism.* Old Tappan, N.J.: F.H. Revell, 1986. 126 pp. Classic book on leading others to follow Jesus, as an antidote to missiological myopia.

Noll, Mark A. *Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011. 180 pp. Excellent introduction to the importance of scholarship for the Christian life and insights into how to do our scholarship Christianly.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Engaging God's World—A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. 150 pp. Admits his Calvinistic bias up-front, but presents a fair, evenhanded approach to creation, fall and redemption and all the issues bound up in these great events. One of the two best general introductory books on Christian worldview, along with Wolters.

Romanowski, Michael H., and Teri McCarthy. *Teaching in a Distant Classroom: Crossing Borders for Global Transformation.* Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2009. 223 pp. Excellent guidebook (yes, I'm biased) for Christian professors on how to teach from a Christian worldview. Shows how all professions and fields are sacred and how excellence earns credibility. Practical guide on how to teach with excellence and minister to students.

Stott, John. *Your Mind Matters: The Place of the Mind in the Christian Life.* 64 pp. Brief but powerful case on the Christian's use of the mind.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives.* 1st ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988. 276 pp. The best study on how God works to change us spiritually and psychologically. Helps us as academics to understand and explain spiritual development.

Wolters, Albert M. *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1985. 98 pp. Excellent introduction to a biblical worldview. The best general introductory books on Christian worldview.