

## **The Christian Mind: How to Think about Anything from a Gospel Worldview**

If the gospel is true, does it change our view of God's world around us? Is there a 'Christian' view of, say, literature? Or politics? Or maths? Or your vocation? How would we work it out? What are the dangers if we don't have clarity on our worldview? What are the practical steps towards thinking intentionally about a Gospel worldview? This session will try to answer these and related questions while offering a robust discussion of the challenges that emerge in developing a Christian mind.

**Tim Laurence** is European Director of the Veritas Forum, which partners with student ministries in Europe to reconnect leading universities to the gospel through the public pursuit of Truth - inviting Christian professors and apologists to public dialogue with students and non-Christian faculty on big questions for the sake of persuasive evangelism. While London Chairman of the UK Lawyers' Christian Fellowship, Tim arranged, contributed to, and edited *Good News for the Public Square* (2014) – a collection of London-based lectures for Christian lawyers giving a Biblical framework for Christian engagement in law and government. An Oxford graduate in English Literature and a former banking regulation lawyer at international firm Hogan Lovells, Tim is also completing a ThM in Historical Theology with Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, through its London campus at the John Owen Centre, at London Theological Seminary. He is married to Katherine.

### **I. Case Study - part 1**

A. "Christianity and Politics don't mix?"

B. Concerns and confusions

- Universal humanness v Uniqueness of Christ
- Law v Gospel
- Flesh v Spirit

## **II. General Framework Principles**

A. The Cultural Mandate....for Creation.

B. The Gospel Mandate....toward a New Creation.

C. Relating the Mandates

- Similarities: creation and revelation; the image of God.
- Distinctions: this age (Adam); the arriving age (Christ).
- Summary: analogically correspondent, ontologically continuous; mutually informing.

D. Effect of Sin

## **III. The Mandates and the Mind**

A. Truth: General Revelation, Special Revelation

B. Certainty: the one, the many, Scripture and the new birth.

C. Meaning and Application: Culture building and Church building

#### **IV. Case Study - part 2**

A. Government mandate and gospel mandate

B. Public square framed by the gospel story: authority, truth, goodness, hope

C. Public square informed by the gospel

D. Public square points to Christ

#### **V. How to Think About Anything**

A. Creation

B. Tracing your topic through the gospel story

- Trinity, Creation, Fall, Redemption (Israel, Christ, Church), Consummation

C. How distinctive should we expect the Christian position to be?

- The fall and the relationship between the subject matter and the image of God
- Examples - arts, sciences, vocation

## **VI. Conclusions**

A. “True Truth”

B. So what is the ‘Christian’ Mind?

- True humanity
- Uniqueness of Christ
- Love

C. Challenge: Mandates and Mind - thinking.... and doing