

# Session 3: Worldview Integration



# Integration Case Study



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“I’ve noticed that while our senior theses are deeply researched and beautifully presented, too many of them struggled to integrate a Christian Worldview.”





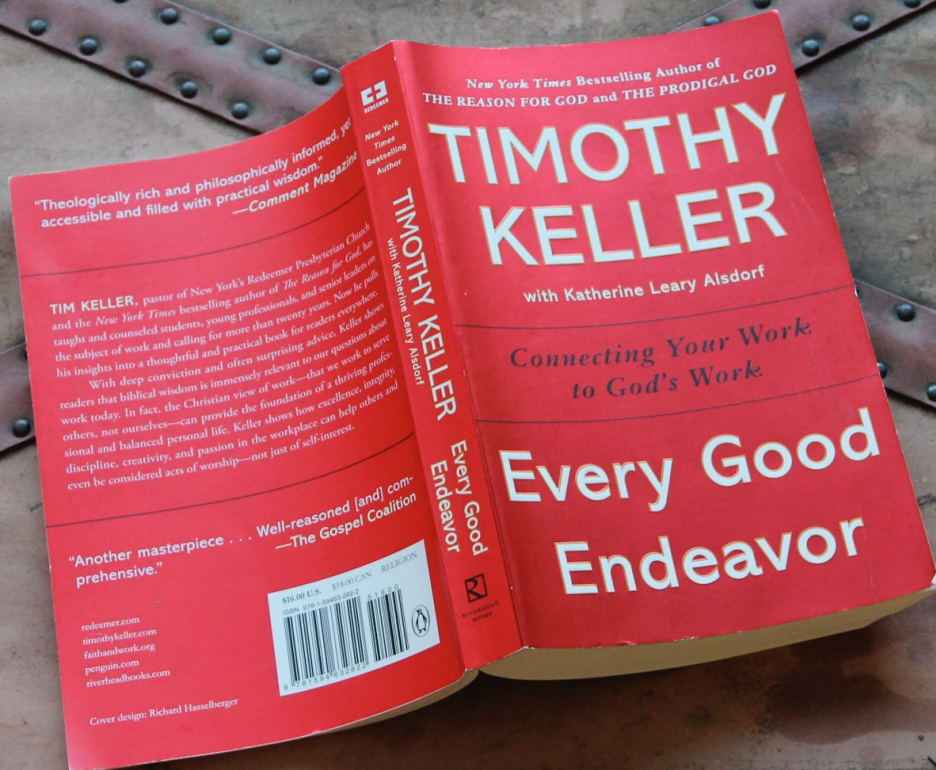


SAVE THE

WHALES



# Breakout 1 Defining Worldview





## Breakout 1 Defining Worldview

Now, the significance of stories is this. While many stories are often no more than entertainment, narratives are actually so foundational to how we think that they determine how we understand and live life itself. The term “worldview,” from the German word *Weltanschauung*, means the comprehensive perspective from which we interpret all of reality. But a worldview is not merely a set of philosophical bullet points. It is essentially a master narrative, a fundamental story about (a) what human life in the world should be like, (b) what has knocked it off balance, and (c) what can be done to make it right.<sup>149</sup> No one can really function in the world without some working answers to those big questions, and so, to provide those answers, we adopt a world-story, a narrative that explains things—a worldview.



# Breakout 1 Defining Worldview

VS.



# Breakout 1 Defining Worldview





# Breakout 1 Defining Worldview

## SUMMIT'S WORLDVIEW CHART

Understanding the Key Players  
in the Battle of Ideas





# Breakout 1

## Defining

## Worldview

	CHRISTIAN	ISLAM	SECULAR HUMANISM	MARXISM-LENINISM	COSMIC HUMANISM	POST-MODERNISM
THEOLOGY	God exists, is intelligent, powerful, loving, just. Died for sins.	Allah, one God, creator, master of universe	No God. Scientific process made God obsolete. Only matter. Man is matter.	Marx was atheist. Combat Religion. Atheism needs to overthrow existing social conditions.	All things are divine. God is within us and things. We discover this.	Not atheists like sec. hum. Like Nietzsche: "God is dead" or unbelievable
PHILOSOPHY	2 Co. 10:5; Col. 2:8; Non-Christian worldviews are vain and deceitful. Christian view is reasonable	Also, a "revealed" religion and is assumed to be reasonable	Only matter exists. Know only through scientific process and senses.	Materialism. THESIS is the way it is. ANTITHESIS is the opposite of the way it is. SYNTHESIS is the way it becomes as a result of the struggle.	God is in everything. Everything is spiritual. When this is realized the physical will not exist. Enlightened mind controls matter.	Objective reality is rejected. Reality is constructed by what a human thinks or believes. No universal truth or absolutes.
ETHICS	God is absolute & unchanging. He hates evil and loves good. God revealed his character.	Qur'an and Muhammad are foundational	Humans decide standards and values	Whatever advances communism is good and whatever stands in the way is evil. Thus, kill the opposition.	Follow inner universal god-consciousness to determine your right or wrong. Only evil is to say there is moral absolutes.	Local community determines moral truth. No "grand narrative" so each community of people identify ethics.
BIOLOGY	Only the creationist perspective can account for design, laws, order. Science tells us about God's universe.	Universe created by Allah, but Genesis is corrupted	Natural selection. Mutations provide variations. Evolution slow. If evolution is false there is no Secular Humanism	Depend on evolution and spontaneous generation. THESIS + ANTITHESIS=SYNTHESIS. Clashes and leaps=change	Man evolving from disharmony to harmony. Evolution guides man from material world to spiritual beings, godhood	Rejects order and design of history so patterned evolution is replaced with chance and random leaps
PSYCHOLOGY	Emphasize spiritual. Understand fallen, sinful nature. Recognize need for salvation. Face guilt and repent	Man is not fallen. Adam forgiven and left no trace of sin in man	Monism (only body). Man is good. Achieve mental health by meeting physical and material needs. Behaviorism.	Everything a man does is: 1-from physical makeup 2-influence of environment. Man is limited to this, but Marx expects man to revolt?	Society, environment stifles the god within us. Man must realize he is perfect, his impulses and intuitive urges are good.	We are many selves created from language, geography, family, education so we are a social construction.
SOCIOLOGY	The individual & the social order are important to God: Marriage, family, state	Family, religion, state are not distinguished	Civilization, culture are evil and make man evil. Family is the worst. Government education is most desirable method for abolishing old institutions	Everyone is both the laborer and the owner of production. No need for government, church or family since empowered men are responsible to act right	Evil in man is due to traditional society (especially in the West). Rebel against traditional values: fathers, families, state, free enterprise,	Even playing field by focusing on the cultural fringe: poor, oppressed, homosexual. Demonize privileged like white males, businesses.
LAW	Natural and revealed. Based on God's character. Government controls sinful man. All have unalienable rights, made in God's image	Law based not in God's character but on God's determined law	State has sovereign power to determine law since they are highest power. Crime is fault of social order not criminal. "Truth" is merely legal.	Sovereignty is taken from state and given to the working class. Law originates with property owners. Get rid of property and there will be no need for law.	Each person decides what is right. Need for law will fade away as we grow into god-consciousness.	Western understanding & justice is the root of problem. Get rid of white male view. Less objectivity, focus on subjectivity, minorities
POLITICS	God ordained the state, but it is limited, never totalitarian. Never removes freedom, religion or family.	Global Islamic theocracy set up under rule of Allah's laws	World government is next in evolution's process. This is the road to utopia. Goal: World Peace	Working class rises up to seize production & politics to form a world rule by working class until the state is no longer needed	Government exists because some are unaware of god in them. One world government will lead to spiritual unity	Empower women, minorities, homosexual. Get rid of white males and Western culture
ECONOMICS	System must check man's injustice and make man responsible to produce. Free Enterprise	Based on unity, care of poor, free will, responsibility	Man capable of planning perfect economy. Strict central control of world economy. Interventionist.	Economics determine all institutions. Society based on production. Improved slavery to feudalism to capitalism to socialism to abolish private property for a communistic world order. All needs met.	Traditional economic models stress material, so hinders enlightenment. Spiritual harmony will cause material needs to flow towards you.	Goal is to alleviate all human suffering through government's economic intervention
HISTORY	Movement through history from creation, fall, redemption, restoration	Allah oversees & leads history to ultimately express his will	No supernatural influence or purpose. Without design history moves from simple to complex	History is THESIS+ ANTITHESIS=SYNTHESIS at work. History is a result of biological & economic evolution	Moving toward god-consciousness into unified enlightenment. Christians, etc. hinder this process	Facts are inaccessible since writers of history record their views. We rewrite it w/ our own 'truth'



## Breakout 1 Defining Worldview

Keller says that a Worldview is a narrative and this is more than just a list of philosophical bullet points.

Summit Ministries gives this chart, which just is a list of philosophical bullet points, to help students understand the “key players in the world of ideas.”



## Breakout 1 Defining Worldview

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# Who's right?



# They're BOTH right!

Summit's chart isn't offering a definition of "worldview".

Rather, it's a very helpful tool for identifying the key points of disagreement between prominent worldviews.



## Keller is helpful here:

Worldviews are narratives!

And, seeing this is imperative for  
implementing effective  
worldview integration.





# Worldview Integration?



The opposite of integration is compartmentalization.

One's worldview is compartmentalized when one has multiple inconsistent stories that one uses to understand the different parts of life.



# Worldview Integration?




For example:

At church, love is the highest good.

At work, \$\$\$ is the highest good.

While watching UT play football, anything that helps us beat the hell outta OU is worth doing...

A close-up photograph of a board game board featuring hexagonal tiles. The tiles are color-coded: green, yellow, brown, and grey. Each tile has a white circle in the center containing a number. The numbers visible include 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Some tiles also have small black icons. Wooden pieces, including red, blue, and black pawns and small rectangular blocks, are placed on the board. A black pawn is prominently placed on a grey tile with the number 5. The background is a blue and white patterned surface.

And don't even get me started on  
the level of treachery I will engage in  
to take away your Longest Road!



# Worldview Integration?



Alternatively, one's worldview is integrated when one has one story that one uses to understand all the different parts of life.



## Breakout 2 Boardgame Ethics?!

Could a Christian with a maximally integrated worldview intentionally deceive one of her opponents in a boardgame?

Put another way: how good would Jesus be at playing a Fascist in *Secret Hitler*?





# Diagnosing the Problem



To gain insight into this integration problem, let's journey back 25 years to the 31st Dove awards...





# Diagnosing the Problem



B.I.B.L.E. = Basic Instructions Before  
Leaving Earth

This song makes it seem like the Christian story is *just* a story about how to escape death.



# Diagnosing the Problem



We can express this view using Keller's  
Worldview formula as follows:



# The B.I.B.L.E. Worldview

- What should life be like?



# The B.I.B.L.E. Worldview

- What should life be like?
  - We should go to heaven when we die.



# The B.I.B.L.E. Worldview

- What should life be like?
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- What has knocked this off balance?



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  - Humans disobeyed God and now deserve to go to Hell when they die.



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- What can be done to make this right?



# The B.I.B.L.E. Worldview

- What should life be like?
  - We should go to heaven when we die.
- What has knocked this off balance?
  - Humans disobeyed God and now deserve to go to Hell when they die.
- What can be done to make this right?
  - Jesus Christ came to earth as a human and made a way for us to be saved through his death on the cross.



## Breakout 3 B.I.B.L.E. Worldview

- What, if anything, is wrong with expressing the Christian Worldview as the B.I.B.L.E. Worldview?
- How would you improve this expression of the Christian Worldview?





# The Problem Diagnosed



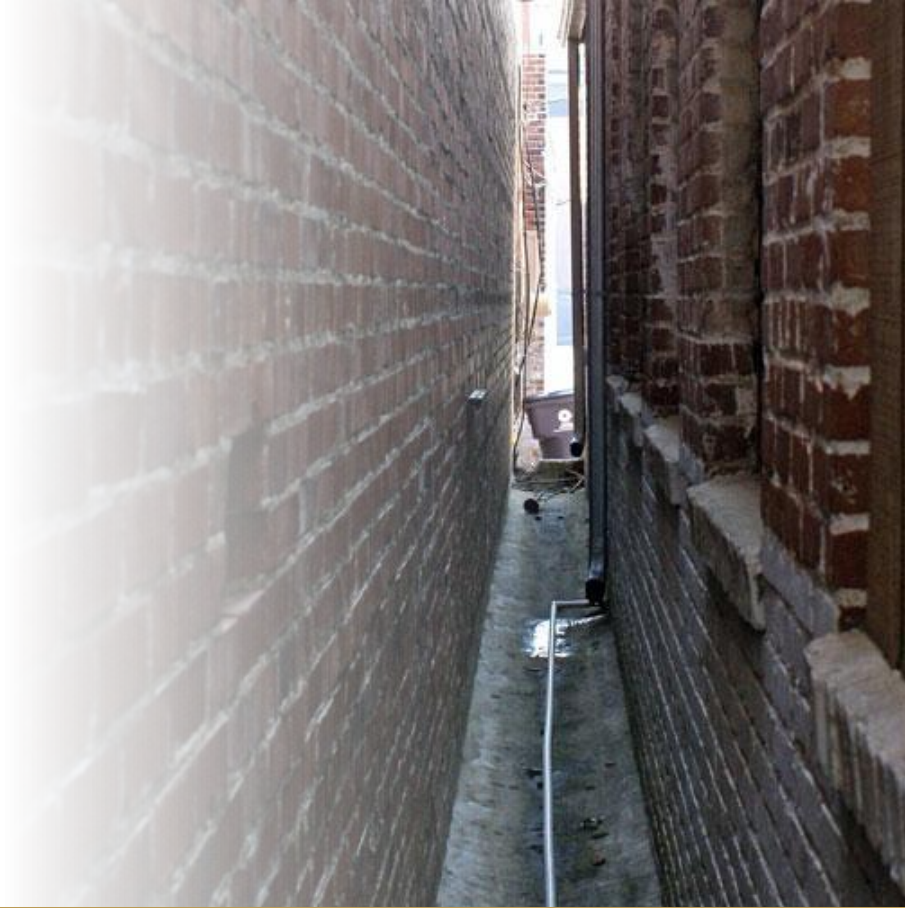
The B.I.B.L.E. expression of the Christian  
Worldview is TOO NARROW!

## *Imago Dei*

The B.I.B.L.E. Worldview says nothing about human identity.

It's near silent concerning the questions:

- Who am I?
- Why do I exist?



# The Lord's Prayer

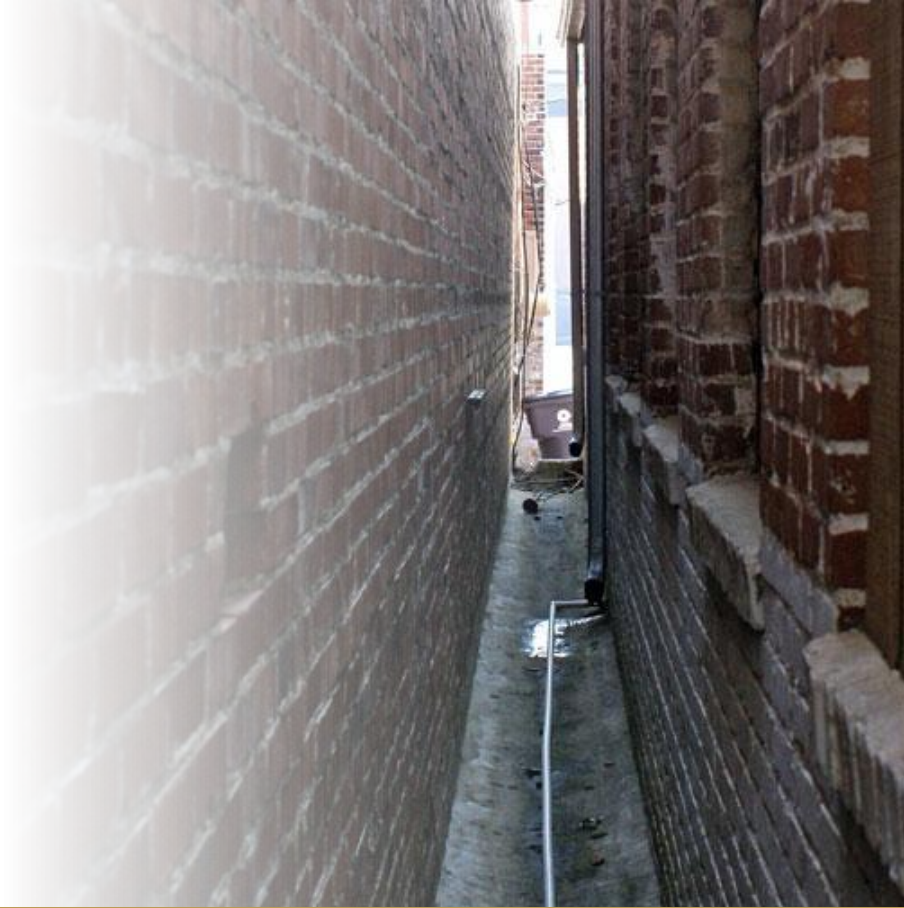
Jesus taught us to pray that:

“...God's kingdom come,  
God's will be done,  
*on earth as it is in heaven...*”



## Restoration: Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.





# The Problem Diagnosed



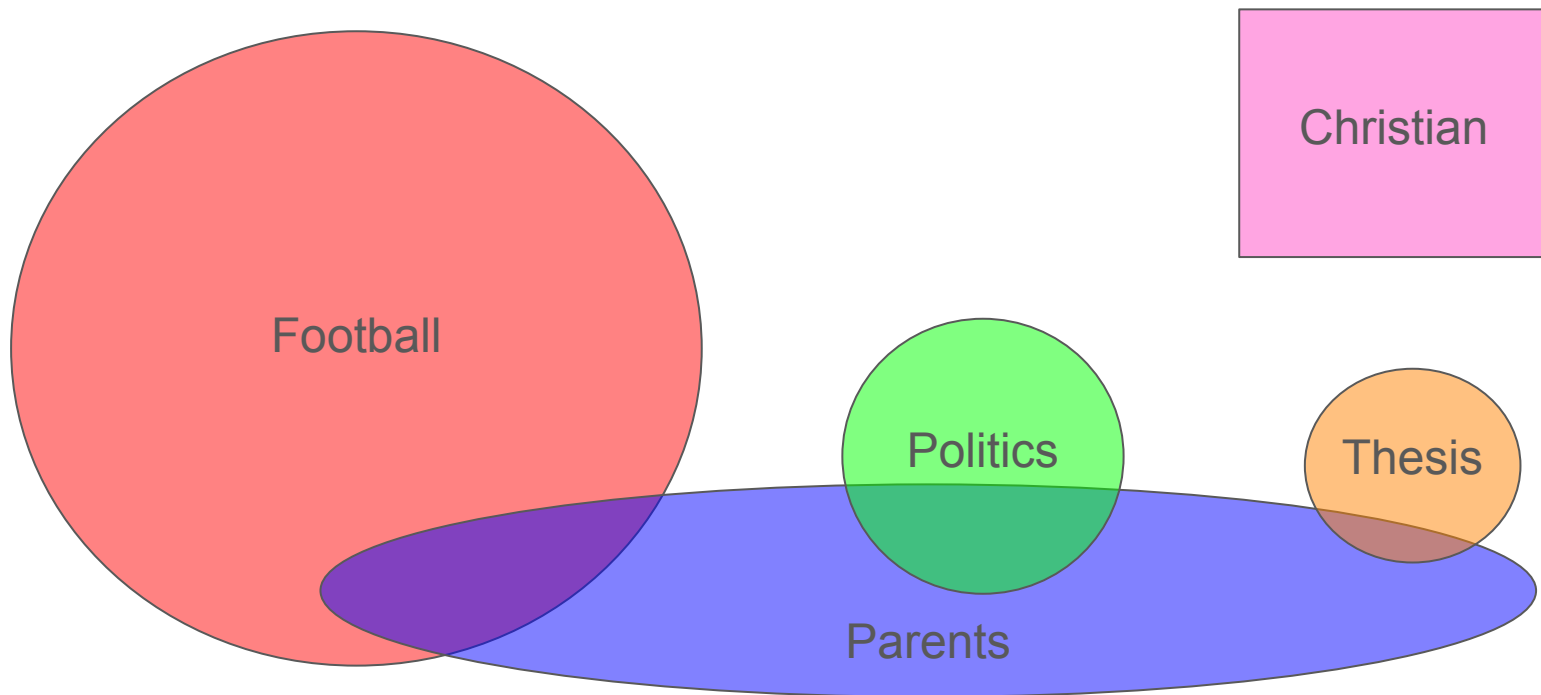
This matters: narrow expressions of the Christian Worldview resist effective worldview integration.



# WHY?

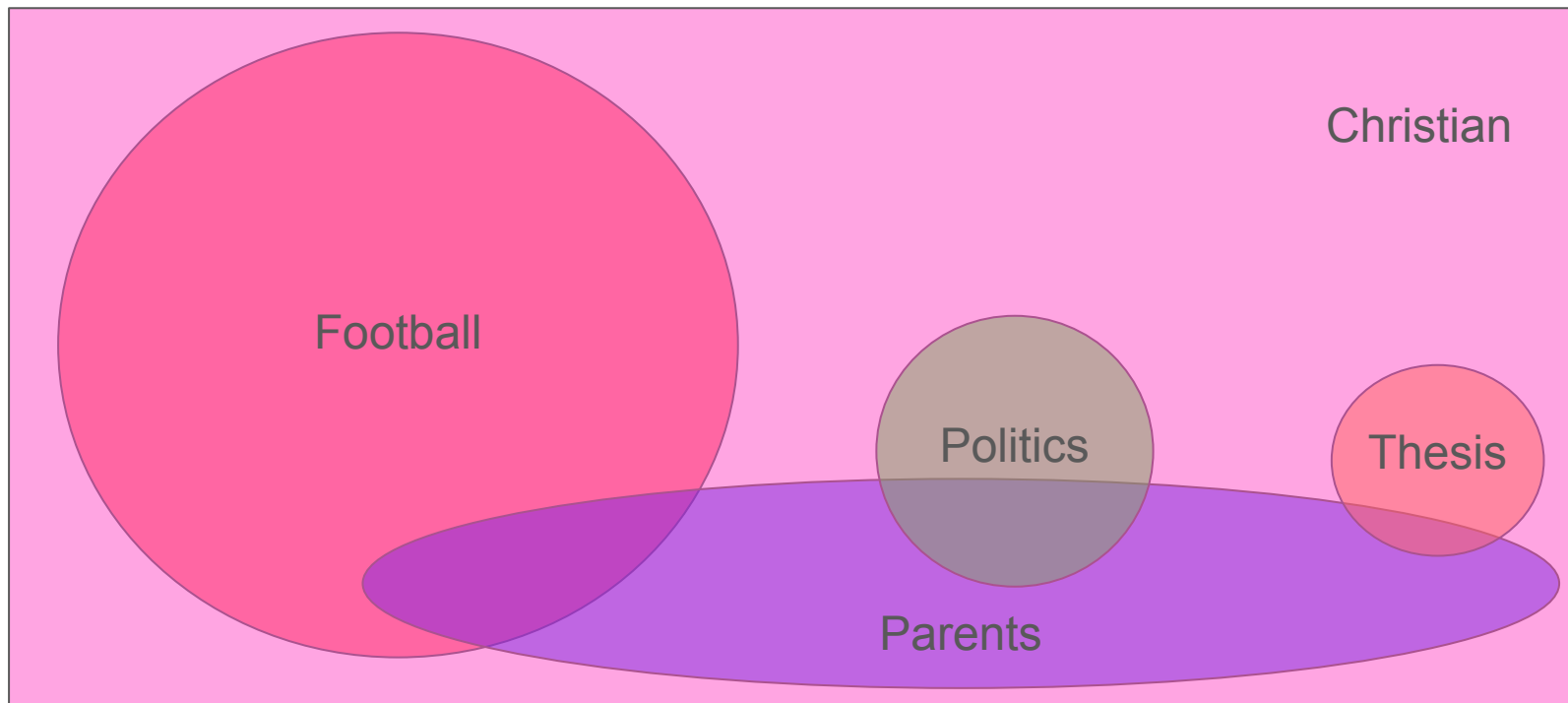


# WHY?





# WHY?



“

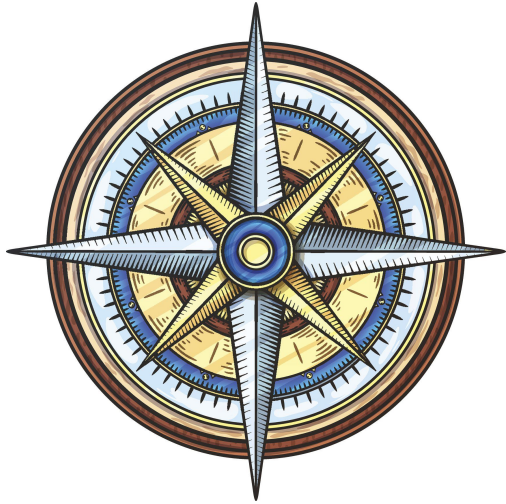
There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'

-Abraham Kuyper

”



# The Way Forward



Finding success in worldview  
integration requires understanding  
how all encompassing the  
Christian Worldview actually is.



BibleProject

the  
UNION of  
HEAVEN & EARTH

IS WHAT THE

Story  
of the  
BIBLE

IS

♦ ALL ♦

ABOUT



# The Christian Worldview

- What should life be like?
  - The Kingdom of Earth should be unified with the Kingdom of Heaven, like it was at creation.
- What has knocked this off balance?
  - The fall, when humanity rebelled against God and broke the unity of Heaven and Earth.
- What can be done to make this right?
  - Jesus Christ, God incarnate, came to earth as a human and made the way for us to be redeemed through his death and resurrection. He continues to restore the unity between heaven and earth through his body, the church, until he returns again.

# Classroom Exercise

We have the students find Christians to interview and they ask them two questions:

- 1) What's the mission of the Church?
- 2) How do you help accomplish that mission *directly* through your vocation?



# Exercise Results

It's encouraging! Many adult Christians have beautiful and wise answers that help our students grow in their worldview integration.



# Exercise Results

However, those interviewed who struggle to integrate their vocation into a Christian Worldview VIRTUALLY ALWAYS express the Christian Worldview too narrowly.





## Breakout 4 Interviews

- What is the mission of the Church?
- How do you contribute to that mission *directly* through teaching your discipline?



## Some Practical Advice!

- BibleProject and Summit have excellent resources for seeing how all encompassing the Christian Worldview is.



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- Don't just get locked in on what your discipline can accomplish; remember to explore all the ways that studying your discipline can improve your students' character.

WHY I COULD NEVER BE A MATH TEACHER:

TEACHER!  
WILL WE EVER  
USE ANY OF  
THIS ALGEBRA?

YOU WON'T,  
BUT ONE OF THE  
SMART KIDS  
MIGHT.





## Some Practical Advice!

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- Chapter 9 of Tim Keller's *Every Good Endeavor* is a great resource for examples of great answers to question two.
- Don't just get locked in on what your discipline can accomplish; remember to explore all the ways that studying your discipline can improve your students' character.
- Don't just look for applications of your discipline to Christianity—look also for ways in which Christianity serves as a foundation for your discipline.





## Breakout 4 Interviews

- What is the mission of the Church?
- How do you contribute to that mission *directly* through teaching your discipline?



# “-isms” discussion questions

## Theoretical

1. What is the view?
2. What are the best reasons to hold this view?
3. Is this view compatible with the Christian Worldview?
4. If not, where's the conflict?
5. What are some objections that defeat this view? (Find some that use scripture, and some that don't.)

## Practical

1. What's a real life student situation in which this view might come up or be assumed?
2. Roleplay: Have one person play the student who assumes the view, and the rest of the group will discuss the issue with them.