

Christian Worldview Formation in Southern Africa

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Introduction

- What is a worldview?
- A worldview answers questions of origin, purpose, ethics, and destiny.
- It is a lens through which all of life is interpreted.
- Southern African worldviews are influenced by ATR, colonial legacy, secularism, and Christianity.

How Does Worldview Formation Occur?

- Formed over time through family, education, media, community, and personal experience.
- Key stages: foundational, cognitive-emotional, socialization, spiritual commitment, practice, and renewal (Rom 12:2).

Operating System Analogy

- A worldview is like an OS: determines perception and response.
- Secular OS: human logic, no God; Syncretistic: conflicting inputs; Biblical OS: God's truth governing all.

I. Historical & Cultural Landscape

- ATR as the default OS: distant god, animism, ancestor veneration, mediation.
- Colonial sacred-secular divide produced fragmented worldviews.
- Missionary impact: Gospel + Western culture.
- Western secularization was introduced via education and media.

II. Challenges to Christian Worldview Formation

- 1. Syncretism – Gospel + ATR; need intentional discipleship.
- 2. Secularism and relativism; media promotes materialism.
- 3. Fragmented education systems omit Scripture.
- 4. Weak family structures fail to disciple children.

III. Biblical Foundations

- 1. Christ's Lordship (Col 1:16–17).
- 2. Scripture as Authority (2 Tim 3:16).
- 3. Four-part framework: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation.
- 4. Five Key Drivers: Narrative, Authority, Community, Experience, Practice.

IV. Practical Strategies

- 1. Biblical curriculum in education.
- 2. Worldview-focused church discipleship.
- 3. Media and tech used for Gospel witness.
- 4. Raise leaders of integrity.
- 5. Equip parents for family discipleship.

Conclusion – A Call to Action

- Commit to biblical worldview formation.
- Disciple families and churches.
- Engage public life with Gospel conviction.
- If we don't disciple minds biblically, the world will do it for us.