

Can We Save America?

By Dr. Randy Bunch

We may be in more trouble than we think. The numbers released recently from a ground-breaking worldview survey conducted by the American Culture and Faith Institute is not very encouraging. More than 100 million Americans claim to have a biblical worldview. However, the studies, directed by George Barna of the Barna Group, reveal a very different story.

Worldview is very important because, as we know, ideas have consequences. For those new to the concept, a worldview is simply the lens through which one views the world or views reality. Thus our mental and moral framework will be determined by our worldview. What we believe determines how we behave. We will certainly not behave like a Christian nation if we don't believe like Christians.

Beyond this, however, one's worldview determines how we cope with life. If we have a strong faith in God and His sovereign purpose for us, we can face life's challenges with courage, knowing we are not alone in the world. However, for those who have no such worldview, the world can be scary place from which they may try to hide, whether it be behind an addiction or some other vice. Those who believe this life is all we have to look forward to will likely choose to squeeze out of this life whatever temporal pleasures it can offer, while those who believe in a heavenly reward are more likely forego such carnal gratification to fulfill God's purposes in order to receive a more enduring, eternal reward.

So, what did the survey uncover? While 46% of adults in Americans profess to have a biblical worldview, the study suggests that the number is really only 10%. This was determined by asking 20 questions about core spiritual beliefs and 20 questions assessing behavior. "Those who answered 80% or more of the questions in accordance with biblical principles were included in the category of 'integrated disciples' — that is, people who are designated as having a biblical worldview based on integrating their beliefs and behavior into a lifestyle that reflects foundational biblical principles."¹ That 10% number means that of the 244 million adult population in our nation, only about 24 million really view reality through the lens of scripture.

What this tells us is that 1) many or most of those who profess to hold to a biblical worldview don't really know (or care) what the Bible teaches, and 2) the world has done a better job influencing the Church in the West than we have done influencing the world. The study is interesting reading, and it lets us know that there is much work to be done.

This is one of the reasons why places like Summit Bible College are so vitally important. We are training students every day to understand both the Word of God and how to apply its timeless principles to life. Only by being so prepared and equipped can we do our part to make a difference for Christ in the world. We encourage you to continue to pray and support Summit and recommend us to your friends who are looking to make a difference in our world. Jesus died to save us, but He commissioned the Church to carry that message of salvation, both in word and action, to those whose only hope is in the truth we are called to live and share.

¹ 1 ACFI, "GROUNDBREAKING ACFI SURVEY REVEALS HOW MANY ADULTS HAVE A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW"; Internet; available from <http://www.culturefaith.com/groundbreaking-survey-by-acfi-reveals-how-many-american-adultshave-a-biblical-worldview>, (accessed 15 March 2017).