

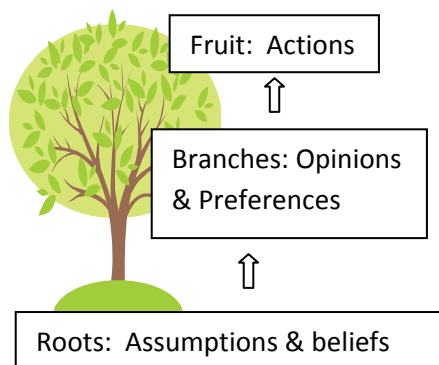
Southwest Christian High School

Why is a Biblical Worldview Education Important?

Southwest Christian High School challenges its students to examine and understand biblical Truth and live according to its principles. The intentional focus at SWCHS is to train young minds to embrace this Truth, to recognize and flee from cultural lies, and to intellectually engage in the dialogue of ideas in college and beyond. Students not only study God's word but also the preeminent ideas and philosophies at work in postmodern culture. In this way they are prepared to discern truth from falsehood, not only in college classrooms, but in the society at large.

A worldview can be defined as a "lens through which we see the world," or, the set of beliefs and assumptions that we hold (sometimes unconsciously), through which we interpret and act upon the world around us.

How a person's worldview works itself out into one's actions can be illustrated by a tree. Starting in the freshman year, the analogy of the worldview tree is used to show students how roots represent their beliefs, branches reflect opinions and preferences, and fruit are their actions. Actions will often show what a person truly believes about reality, whether these beliefs are stated or not.



One example of a common worldview is Naturalism (or atheism.) A true Naturalist's "roots" would include beliefs that reality consists of only the material, man evolved through natural selection, there is no absolute moral authority, and there is no soul that lives on after death. A Naturalist's "fruit" may include actions anywhere from living for personal enjoyment, to hopelessness, even abortion.

The assumptions of Naturalism, Secular Humanism, Pantheism (new age), Postmodernism, Theism, Islam, and other competing worldviews are examined at SWCHS to help students understand where these competing worldviews lead in regards to a multitude of topics like creation/evolution, moral relativism, materialism, current politics, and more. Study of worldviews does not only happen in Bible class, but pertinent discussions happen in a variety of classes. While Southwest teachers teach all subjects from a biblical perspective, students and teachers are also often dialoguing about the perspectives of other worldviews. The ability to compare and contrast is essential in the complete education of young people who have the potential to live for the glory of God in a culture that mocks Christian truth.

Many believe that in the elementary years the moral groundwork and faith foundation of a child has been adequately laid, and that public high school will simply add to a child's knowledge of academic subjects, like physics or U.S. History. However, consider these three things: 1) scientific studies show that the teenage brain is still developing; 2) peer influence is at its highest during the high school years—the same years when most people are still forming the "roots" of their worldview tree; and 3) academic subjects are not worldview-neutral. The reverse side of this paper shows the wide gap between a humanistic approach to class subjects versus a biblical approach. In government or secular schools, a mix of worldviews will be intentionally and unintentionally taught by educators, depending on their personal views and biases. Students may not be able to filter and discern the truth from errors, nor will they be as prepared to intellectually and competently engage as a Christian thinker in college and society.

The mission of Southwest Christian High School is to train students to think and act biblically toward the world in their academic, artistic, and athletic achievements.

It may be helpful to understand that a person's worldview is comprised of the answers to questions like these:

What is real?
Who am I?
What is right and wrong?
What is the meaning of life?
What happens when I die?
Is there a God?