

WJN U. Class Notes

Lesson 1 9/10/13

Monday, Sept. 9, 2013 – Introduction

- I. Everybody has a worldview
- II. What is a worldview?
 - A. Simplest definition - "a view of the world for the world."
 - B. Worldview is the way we perceive the world – how we make sense of what's around us.
 - C. That perception is the basis for our decisions.
 - D. Usually we find out what our worldview is when something rocks our world
- III. Many "catch" their worldview like we catch a cold. Catch bits and pieces of it from our life experiences, from our parents, from teachers, and friends
- IV. Worldviews we "catch" that come only out of our experience are not stable. They change based on the next experience.
 - a. Compare this to Ephesian. 4:13, 14 - the "mature man" is one who has attained "the knowledge of the Son of God," and is therefore "no longer ... tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, the by trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming."
 - b. But even if not Christian, goal is to mature in your worldview so that you are not going one way one day and another way the next day.
 - c. So the object is to have our worldview interpret our "experiences," not have our experiences dictate our worldview.
- V. A worldview is not the academic discipline we call "philosophy"
 - a. Actually a worldview is pre-philosophy.
 - b. Philosophy is just one of many "academic" disciplines that are shaped by our worldview. Subjects like
 - i. Ethics
 - ii. Economics

- iii. Biology
 - iv. Psychology
 - v. Sociology
 - vi. Law
 - vii. Government, and
 - viii. History
- c. Check FACT website for chart showing how each major worldview influences or looks at these disciplines.

VI. We'll find we apply our worldview very inconsistently.

- a. For example, we may apply the worldview we say we have very consistently when it comes to history but not when it comes to psychology. Or we may have a very sound application of our worldview to ethics, but not to economics.
- a. Inconsistencies are revealed by difference between what we say we believe and what our actions show we really believe.
- b. When inconsistencies crop up, we need to do one of two things:
 - i. Adjust our thinking in one or more of these disciplines.
 - ii. Re-think our worldview. It might not be right.