



WORLD VIEW

1 Samuel 1:27-28 (NIV)

[27] I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. [28] So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.

Luke 2:22 (NIV)

[22] When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.



“Biblical worldview held by only 4% of adults.”

By Michael Foust, posted December 2, 2003, Barna Research



“Biblical worldview held by only 2% of adults.”

Raising Spiritual Champions, by George Barna, 2023, Barna Research

A Worldview is the Intellectual, Emotional, and Spiritual FILTER used to experience, understand, interpret, and respond to the world.

Everyone has a Worldview from a very early age through death.

- A person's worldview starts developing in the fifteen-month to eighteen-month age range and is largely in place by the age of thirteen. That's the prime window of opportunity for discipleship.
- By the age of thirteen, most people's worldview is so deeply formed that it rarely endures significant change.

You need a Worldview: It is the basis from which we make All of our Decisions.

Worldview determines your Identity, what you value, how you live, how you integrate reality, what challenges you, what you contribute to society, etc.

Two out of every three adults under the age of forty (67%) say they are still trying to identify the meaning and purpose of their life.

Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University

Your Worldview creates the sum of your beliefs and behaviors.

Every Choice Flows Through Worldview

- Eternal destiny
- Political ideology
- Educational philosophy
- Abortion
- Appropriate lifestyle
- Environment
- Role of science
- Religious liberty
- Economic system
- Sin
- Sexual identity
- Values
- Personal freedom

- Voting
- Justice
- Media choices
- Population control
- Parenting strategy
- Morality
- Pornography
- Response to pain
- Financial obligations
- Truth
- Having children
- Government authority
- Mental health
- Relationships
- Existence of God
- Addressing poverty

How We Develop Our Worldview

- Soon after our first birthday, we begin answering the core questions regarding life, selection options that seem most reasonable.
- We combine those choices together into a custom blend that becomes our personal philosophy of life.

- Those choices form our worldview—a unique patchwork of complimentary, conflicting, and contradicting beliefs and behaviors.

Most Significant Sources of Influence on Our Worldview

Dominant Influences on Children

- Arts & entertainment media
- Internet/social media

Dominant Influences on Adults

- Arts & entertainment media
- Internet/social media

Dominant influences on Children:

- Parents/family
- Government/laws
- Peers
- Schools

Dominant Influences on Adults:

- News/information media
- Government/laws
- Peers/affinity groups
- spouse

Which Worldview You Embrace Matters

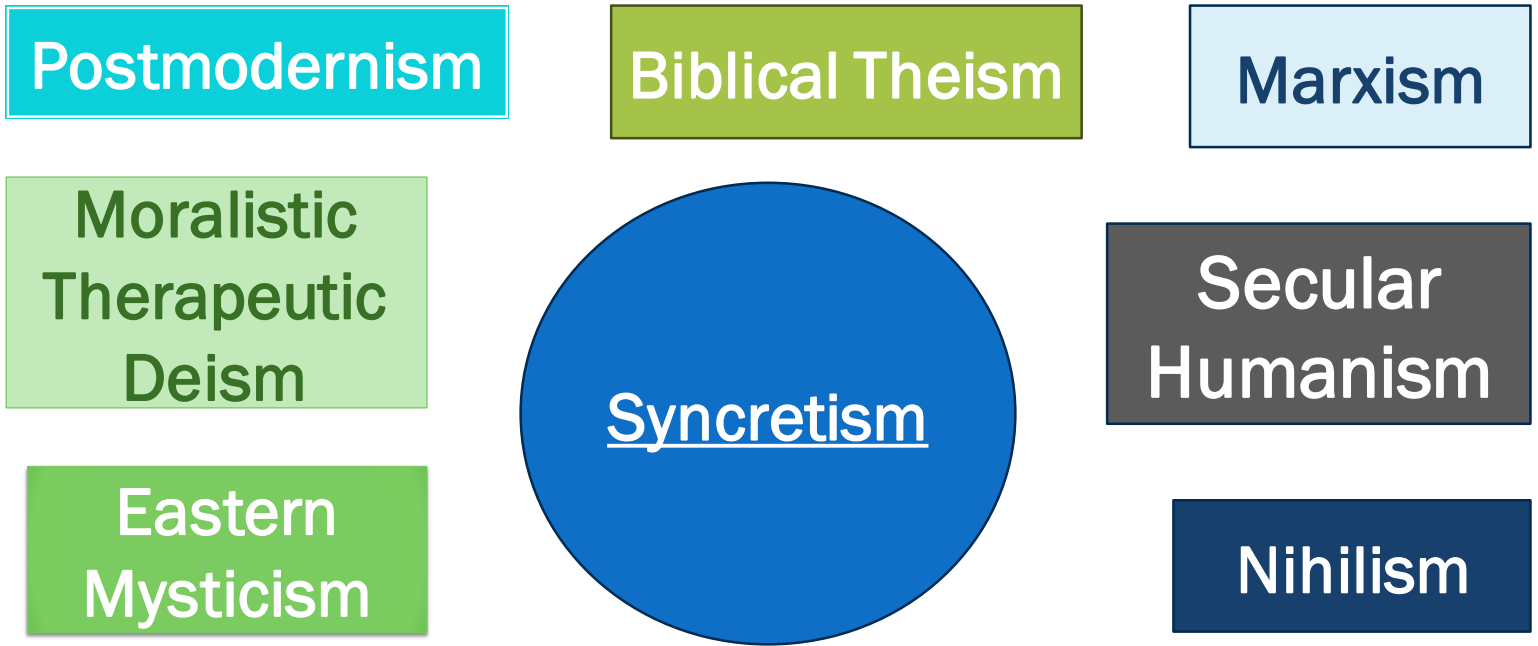
- There are dozens of worldviews to choose or to draw from
- One of those options is the Biblical Theism—better known as the Biblical Worldview.
- The biblical worldview is a way of experiencing, interpreting, and responding to reality consistent with biblical principles.

The biblical worldview allows you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ because it enables you to think like Jesus so you can act like Jesus (because you do what you believe).

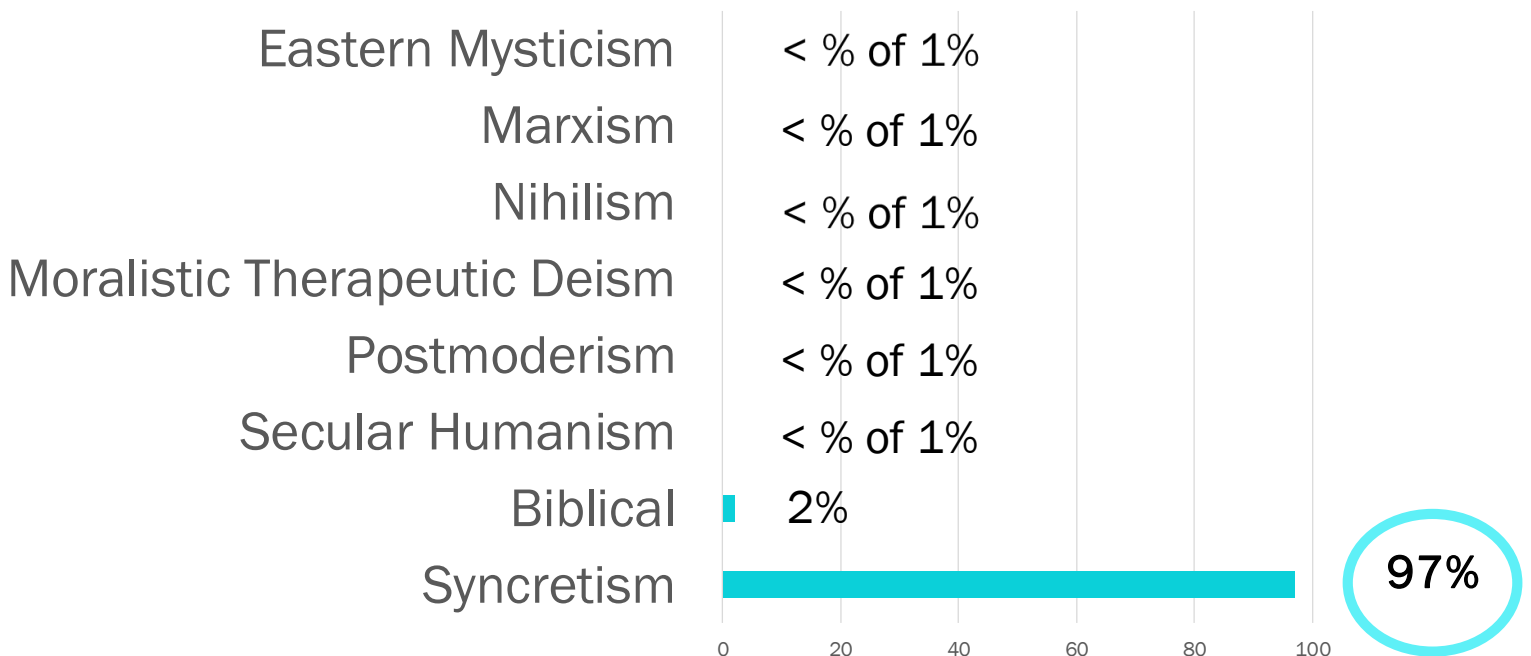
Study: Only 37% of American Pastors Have a Biblical Worldview

[Pulpit Problems by Ken Ham on May 30, 2022](#)

America's Worldview of Choice: Syncretism



Worldview Incidence Among Millennials in the U.S.



Syncretism

- 1: the combination of different forms of belief or practice
- 2: the fusion of two or more originally different inflectional form

Why Focus On Millennials?

- Most numerous generation in US history
- Primary parenting generation
- Massive marketplace for influence/dominance:
 - Spending
 - Employment preference
 - Political
 - political philosophy and voting
 - Media consumption &
 - Moral & spiritual choices
 - Cultural focus

Millennial Beliefs

Belief:	Millennials %
<u>God</u> : omniscient, omnipotent, perfect, creator in Charge	30%
<u>Don'ts</u> : don't know, care or believe God exists	34%
Bible is not the <u>true, reliable</u> words of God	59%
<u>Absolute moral truth</u> does not exist	48%*

Bible is your primary <u>moral guide</u>	22%
People are <u>born into sin</u> , need to be rescued	20%
Will go to <u>Heaven</u> because confessed sin, accepted Jesus as savior	29%
<u>Success</u> is consistent obedience to God	14%
<u>Purpose</u> : know, love serve God w/ all heart, soul, mind, strength	30%

Note:* Indicates a plurality

Believe in <u>Karma</u>	64%
<u>Reincarnation</u> is a real possibility for you	51%
<u>Unmarried, consensual sex</u> is morally acceptable	69%
<u>Abortion</u>, other than to save mother's life, is morally acceptable	62%
<u>Your relationship with God</u> is real, active, a work in progress	31%
<u>Human dignity</u> comes from being a child of God, made in His image	25%

Human Life is a gift from God, it is sacred	18%
You have a unique, God-given calling/purpose in life	25%
Jesus sinned while on earth	47%*
Note: * indicates a plurality	

Comprehend the Millennial Mindset

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- Feeling Trumps Fact
 - No Purpose for Life
 - Get what you Deserve
 - No Source of Grace
 - No God
 - All Choices are Equal
 - No Basis for Trust
 - History is Meaningless
 - No Rescue from Failure
 - No Inherent Value to Life
 - No Divine Relationship
 - No Eternal Hope
 - No Truth
 - Anything Goes
 - No Predictable Authority
 - Not One True Faith

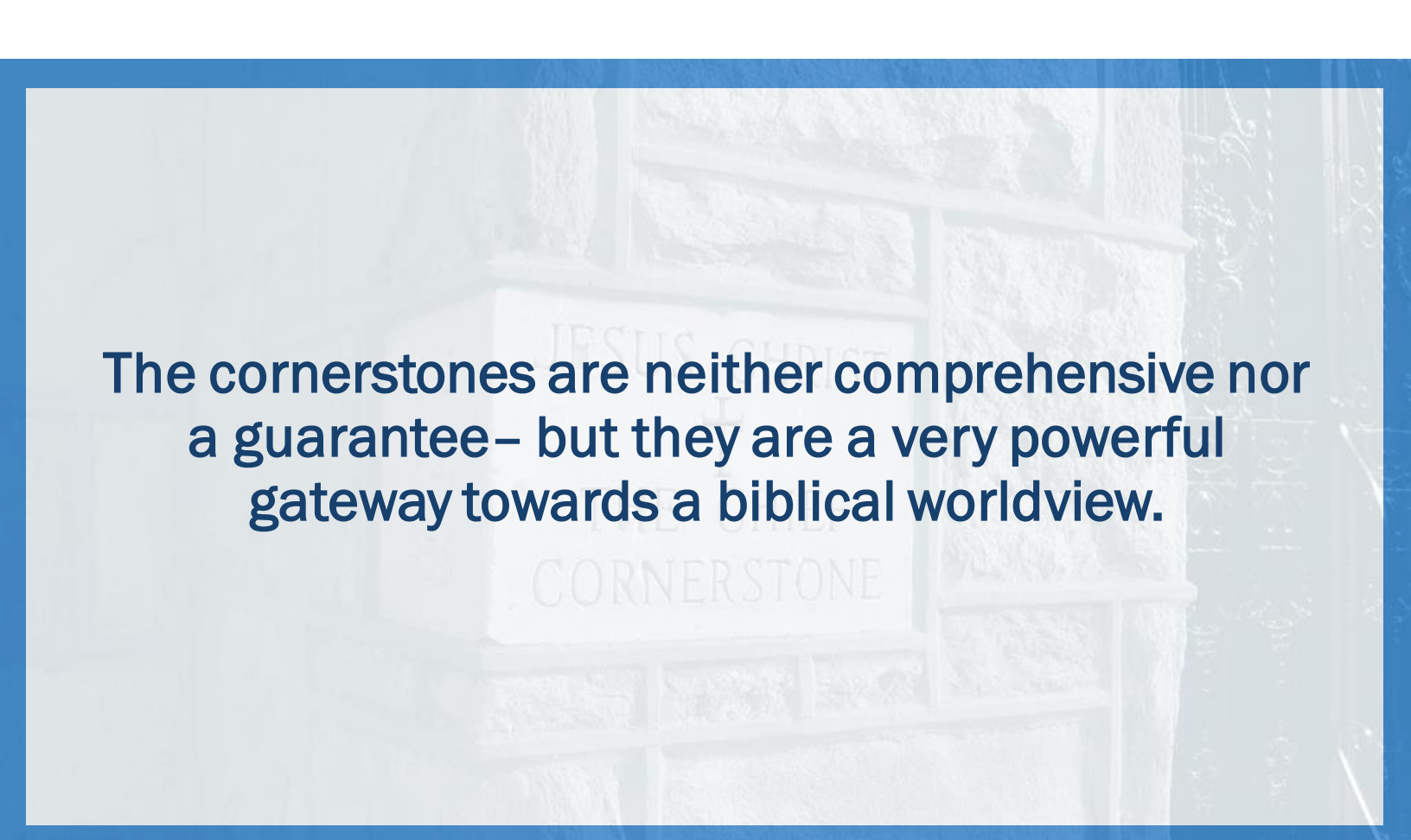
Where Can you Start?

7 Cornerstones of the Biblical Worldview

This is the foundation on which to build a biblical worldview.

Statically:

- Embrace all 7 cornerstones—83% probability of having a biblical worldview
- Not embrace all cornerstones—2% probability of having a biblical worldview

The background of the top section is a photograph of a stone wall. A central stone is a lighter color and has the words 'JESUS CHRIST' on the top line and 'THE CORNERSTONE' on the bottom line. To the right, a portion of a chalkboard with some faint writing is visible.

The cornerstones are neither comprehensive nor a guarantee – but they are a very powerful gateway towards a biblical worldview.

Barna's 7 cornerstones of a Biblical Worldview:

- 1) God is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent and just Creator.**
- 2) Humans are sinful by nature.**
- 3) Jesus Christ grants forgiveness of sin and eternal life when sinners repent and profess their faith in Him alone.**
- 4) The Bible is true, reliable and always relevant.**

- 5) Absolute moral truth exists.
- 6) Success is defined as consistent obedience to God.
- 7) Life's purpose is to know, love and serve God with all one's heart, mind, strength, and soul.

DOING WHAT WORKS IN DISCIPLE- MAKING

Previous research in which I've been involved demonstrated that parents who raised spiritual champions engaged in many similar approaches as they nurtured their children. Among those shared tactics were these:

Investing in and nurturing a solid, lasting relationship with the child.

**Prioritizing spiritual development
Establishing God, through the Bible, as the ultimate authority.**

Establishing inflexible Bible-based priorities and boundaries.

Setting high but reasonable standards and expectations for them.

Inculcating traditional values and character traits.

Disciplining each child with consistency of belief and behavior.

Acknowledging and working with the unique qualities and abilities of each child.

Developing structure, goals, and plans, evaluating progress, and revising accordingly.

Influencing the choice of their child's friends.

Aggressive management of the child's media exposure.

Pursuing spiritual growth concurrent with the child.

Modeling and expecting engagement in spiritual practices every day, throughout the day.

Seeking and accepting spiritual support from their faith community.

One of the most important conclusions to emerge from that research was that consistency in the philosophy and practices of parents has a huge and lasting impact on children for the rest of their lives.

Know what you believe and do not depart from it.

Be prepared to discuss what you believe, why you believe it, and how you try to integrate those beliefs into your lifestyle.

If your child asks a question that stumps you, do not bluff your way through the exchange in order to save face. Show them how you will figure out God's way related to the situation.

If your child correctly identifies a bad decision you made, based on biblical principles, acknowledge the blunder and demonstrate how to handle it.

Have a plan for what you want to achieve with your child, and stick to the plan.

Implementing the plan through the dozen-plus strategies and tactics identified above is invaluable.

Sadly, most parents who are born-again Christians do not utilize these practices today. Our most recent national survey of parents examined what they report to be their priorities and their most important parenting tactics. They do not offer a lot of hope for great outcomes.

Consistency was described by the parents of now-adult spiritual champions as well as those grown children themselves as the single, most important attribute in the spiritual formation practices of those Christ followers.

They uniformly emphasized the significance of having clear biblical principles as the discipling foundation, practicing those beliefs through behavior, and never deviating from the principles.

Unfortunately, that wisdom has not gotten around to other parents. Our most recent study among the current class of parents who are born-again Christians found that less than half of them (45%) deem consistency to be very important in their child-raising efforts.

Screening their child's peers to facilitate positive, high-quality relationships was a critical attribute in the eyes of parents who successfully raised spiritual champions. Yet less than half of today's born-again parents (45%) concur with the importance of that activity.

Despite a preponderance of evidence that media exerts an enormous, lasting influence on the lives of young people, barely half of today's born-again parents (56%) consider supervising the media and technology exposure of their children to be very important. In contrast, this was listed as a necessity by parents who raised spiritual champions.

One of the crucial practices of disciples is serving other people. Again, a minority of the current crop of born-again parents (44%) characterized this practice as very important to the way they are raising their children.

Introducing their children to the spiritual beliefs and practices the parents personally embrace was considered a very important part of their parenting responsibility by less than three out of every five born-again parents (58%).

This is a telling statistic about the unwillingness of too many born-again Christians to share their core beliefs with their own children. It suggests that religious beliefs are typically ignored by many of today's Christian parents as being central to who their children become or to their likelihood of becoming genuine disciples of Jesus.

Requiring the active participation of their children in the life of their church body or religious community was labeled “very important” by just four out of ten born-again parents (41%).

As noted throughout this book, intentionally shaping the worldview or philosophy of life of their child is a non-negotiable for raising a devoted follower of Christ. Because every decision the child makes for the remainder of their life is made through that filter, worldview is arguably the most important foundation a parent can help to develop. Regardless, only one out of every three born-again parents (35%) believe this practice is very important.

There were a variety of parenting practices that today's parents credited with being more important than shaping their child's worldview.

Among those were:

- helping them to excel in academics,
- ensuring their childhood is fun and carefree,
- frequently discussing the child's life experiences,
- and facilitating exercise and excellent physical health.

Effective parenting is not a pick-and-choose process; it requires an intelligent, comprehensive philosophy that incorporates all the core practices to produce a spiritual champion.

With that in mind, we identified the proportion of today's born-again parents who perceive just six of those proven strategies to be very important in their own efforts—specifically,

- being consistent,
- screening their child's friends,
- sharing their own beliefs and spiritual practices,
 - supervising media exposure,
- facilitating active participation in their community of faith,
- and intentionally shaping the child's worldview.

The outcome is that a mere 11% of the born-again parents today fit the profile. (Note that these six do not constitute the entire slate of efforts practiced by parents who successfully raised spiritual champions.) But saying those approaches are very important is different from regularly implementing those practices.

If we then look at what percentage of parents regularly practice those six things, the figure drops to 4% of all born-again parents.

If we expand the scope of the evaluation to include all American parents, the figure drops to a miniscule 1% of our current population of parents.

Clearly, the critical insights learned about raising spiritual champions by recent generations of parents who accomplished that feat has not been passed on or accepted by most of today's born-again Christian parents.

Unfortunately, the outcome of this rejection of proven practices is easy to predict—and just as easy to observe in the marketplace.

RAISING SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

NURTURING YOUR CHILD'S
HEART, MIND AND SOUL



GEORGE BARNA