



Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Q & A

Answered by Dr. Glen Schultz

People often hold contradictory ideas.

So, how could we ever justifiably predict that their ideas will follow a particular worldview pattern? Or, put another way, wouldn't that be oversimplifying a person's perspective and beliefs, and put us in danger of "putting words in their mouth," instead of just asking them to describe what they think about any given topic?

Response

It is always good to ask questions so you can know what a person believes. Once you start understanding what they actually believe you can ask more questions that will cause them to evaluate their beliefs (worldview) and see if it matches reality. At the same time, we must also teach them the doctrine (beliefs) of a biblical worldview and non-biblical worldviews so they can have a template to evaluate what they are believing.

Hello! With the outbreak of this pandemic, the faith of some Christians is a bit shaken. How can we continuously stand firm and guide others to do same?

Response

There is no question that this pandemic is a test of faith. I have found that I needed to spend more time in the Word and as I read it ask myself do I believe it in light of what is happening? I have become more aware that every Christian will someday be confronted with a crisis that will require him/her to either believe God's Word to be true or reject it. I wrote a few blogs about how God may be using this crisis to strip away our "gods" and refine us to serve Him faithfully. You can find them on my website www.kingdomeducationministries.com The titles are, *The Panic Over Toilet Paper*, *What Are You Trusting In?*, and *Keeping an Eternal perspective*.

Granting that the adoption of a Christian worldview can move people toward faithfully following Jesus (because ideas have consequences), how do we minimize the chances of kids coming to believe that Christianity is just about mentally assenting to a set of theological and philosophical propositions, rather than about applying those propositions to their lives through obedience to Jesus' commands? (i.e. How do we prevent "I believe X, but don't apply X in obedience?")

Response

One only believes what one lives! Worldview development is not just head knowledge. It is heart transformation. First, I must walk in integrity before students. I must live out my faith

(worldview) each and every day. I have found that the reason why many young people say they believe X but live contrary to it is because they are modeling what they see in the adult population they live with. Christian Smith's studies show this to be true. Second, we must continually ask them questions that challenge any disconnect they have between what they say they believe and what they actually live. For example, my children would ask why they could not do such and such because all their Christian friends were doing it. Sometimes I would give them a passage of Scripture and ask them to study this and explain what they would have to do with these verses if they did what they wanted to do. It caused them to think about what they really believed about God's Word

How do you balance biblical worldview formation and spiritual/character formation? Do you see these as same or different? How do you suggest we form students who both can articulate a worldview and are being formed into the character of Christ? - connecting mind with heart...

Response

I think we answered this live. Character is what results when biblical worldview formation takes place in an individual's life.

The postmodernism perspective is fast overshadowing the Christian perspective, how do we make sure this doesn't happen?

Response

First, we must seek out and get rid of postmodern thinking in our own lives (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Then we must teach how postmodernism does not meet reality. For example, postmodernists claim there is no absolute truth. Ask them are they sure? They will answer yes but that is an absolute statement. Well, they might say that that is the only absolute there is. Ask them could there be a second absolute? If they answer no, once again that is an absolute. Their answers contradict what they say is true.

How do you move from the intellect to action? Even those of my students with a biblical worldview have a disconnect between their beliefs and their habits.

Response – see similar question above

**What should an educator do when young adults are resistant?
How do you best win back a child who has been so confused that he sees all of Christianity and God as a fraud?**

Response (2 similar questions)

I believe the best thing we can do is keep a pure heart and live out a consistent biblical life before them. Another thing is to allow them to ask difficult questions and give biblical answers not merely our opinion.

I come from Africa, Nigeria to be precise. How do you curtail excess When it comes to allowing students have autonomy?

Response

We must understand that fallen man wants to be autonomous. By this I mean that they want to be their own god. Of course, we know that no one is autonomous. We will either serve Christ

or Satan. Lost people are in bondage to sin. As we allow young people to mature and make decisions on their own, we must also teach them accountability and responsibility for their actions/decisions. I have found that students will take the approach that if you explain something to them, then they will obey because they understand. Here is what I have found to be true. Explanation does not necessarily bring about understanding. Understanding comes through maturity and maturity happens when one obeys and submits to the authority God places in one's life.

I am skeptical about social media information how do I manage it

Response

You are doing the first thing that must be done to manage social media – approach it with skepticism. Then filter what you see on social media through the lens of Scripture. That is what we must do with what is in a textbook or a presentation. Everything must be filtered through the truth of God's Word. This requires us to be in the Word more than we are in social media or textbooks etc.

What is a 'crucial' step in renewing a Christian spirit/culture in a school?

Response

It starts with each individual staff member to know, understand, and embrace the biblical principles of kingdom education that is foundational to kingdom-focused school. Besides that, it must start with the leadership. Dr. Taylor has always held to the belief that the main responsibility of a leader is to define the culture. Head of school must define the culture of the school. A teacher defines the culture of his/her classroom. The coach defines the culture of his/her team. The leader must be committed to a biblical philosophy of education.

In my culture in Africa, and with the nature of youths I work with, the adult is the SAGE, everything he says is correct to the children. Have you had such an experience? How do we encourage them to ask questions, to explore to go deeper? At times I think this situation is good, they take everything hook, line, and sinker, but this has negative impacts too.

Response

I have found that one of the best teaching strategies to make sure students are fully grasping the subject is to constantly be asking questions as a teaching strategy. Even when a student asks you a question, answer it with a question so you will accurately understand his question. We can't be too quick to give someone an answer. Ask questions that will cause both the student and the teacher to know what the student really believes. When a hard question is asked, don't jump to the answer. Have some dialog about it.

Would you mind giving an example of how model schools have created a means for a healthy dialogue and exchange of ideas within the school?

Response

I think that what Prestonwood Christian Academy does with their annual biblical worldview institute is a great example of how to do this. When students ask the difficult question, don't condemn it but put it in context with Scripture.

How do we help our parents and teachers "know" what the Bible says and then apply it? Teachers and parents often don't know how to apply the Bible - to use it as a lens to live life; how can we encourage and help them - yet expect their children/parents to make godly choices and perceive life through a biblical worldview?

Response

This is what my KEM Prime Membership for schools and individuals attempts to do. Please email me Glen Schultz glen@kingdomeducation.org and I will be happy to give you information on membership.