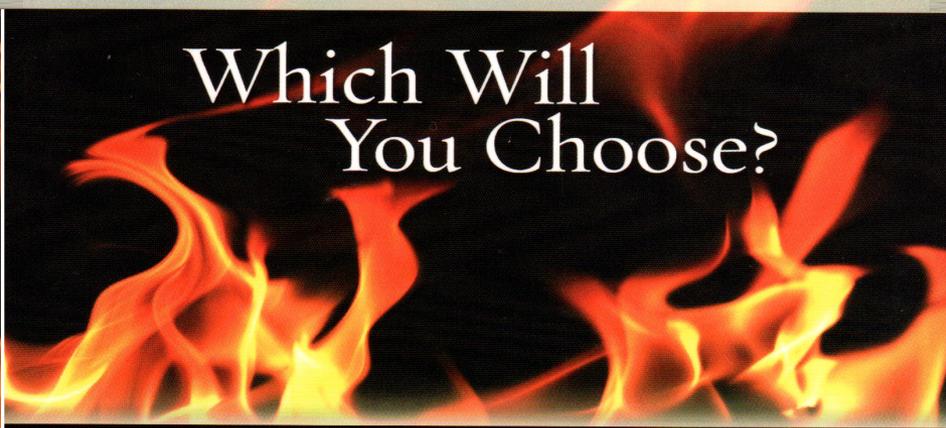


CHRISTIANITY

or

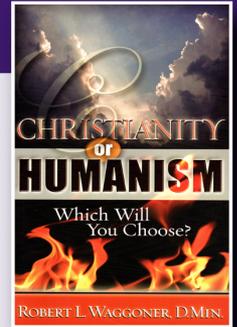
HUMANISM



Which Will
You Choose?

ROBERT L. WAGGONER, D.MIN.

CHRISTIANITY vs HUMANISM



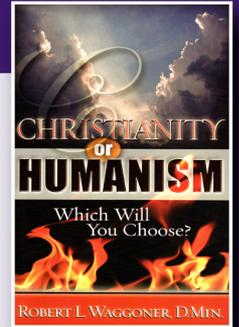
Everyone has a personal *worldview*.

- A *biblical* worldview is where God's word is allowed to be the foundation of everything we think, say, and do.

A *Secular Humanist* worldview is described by its adherents as:

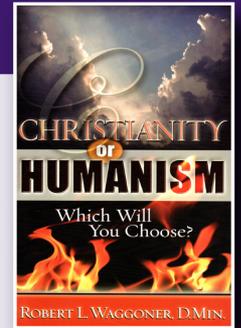
- A method of critical inquiry which opposes theism, religion, and other "nonsensical and false claims".
- A philosophy of life, an ethical, political, and social framework for a better and more just world in which individuals can flourish and be happy.

IN A HUMANIST WORLDVIEW



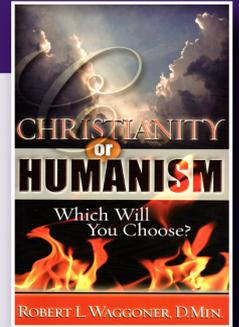
Every thought, action, and word spoken is framed from the viewpoint that:

- There is only the physical. Nature/matter is self-existing, i.e. is eternal.
- Only that which can be proven by experimentation (scientific method) is true.
- There is no revelation from God. Humans develop and define their own ethics or morality based on what *they* consider is in their best interests.
- There is no spirit; no God; no human soul; no life after death.
- The life we have now is “all and enough” and should be lived to experience its full potential.



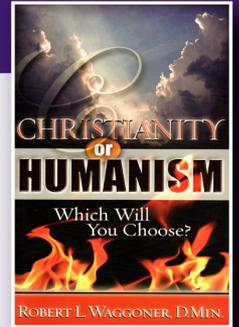
The Pervasiveness of Humanism in Society and its often Unperceived Influence on Christians

Lesson Learning Objectives



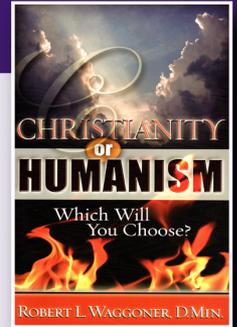
- To recognize the significant, widespread, and detrimental influence of Humanism on American Culture
- To recognize that Christianity in general and each of us individually and specifically have had our thinking (World View) and behavior negatively impacted by Humanism
- To recognize that a culture and mindset influenced by the teachings of the New Testament is far better than a Humanistic one, therefore we need to be zealous in preaching the gospel.

Definitions of Major Terms



- Culture – The social behavior and norms found in human societies founded through values transmitted through traditions, education, arts, entertainment, religion and other human interactions
- Worldview – Worldview may be defined as how one sees life and the world at large. In this manner it can be compared to a pair of glasses.
- Christian Mindset – A Biblical based worldview, often opposed to culture
- Humanist Manifesto II – The 1973 version updated to reflect the despairs of the 20th century in regards to war, racism and human rights.

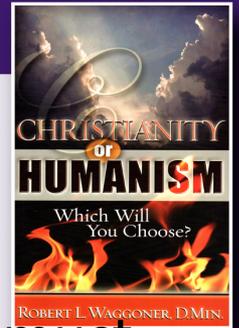
Humanist Manifesto II – 1973



Some illustrative lines from the Humanist Manifesto II – 1973 that are pervasive in our society today!

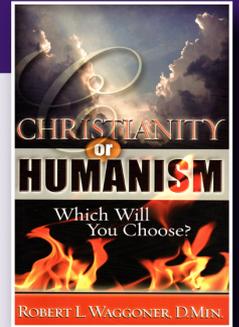
- “No deity will save us, we must save ourselves
- “Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful”
- “Moral values derive their source from human experience”
- “Reason and Intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses. (Faith is no substitute.)
- “We believe in maximum individual autonomy”
- “We (should not) repress sexual conduct”
- “Civil liberties includes recognition of an individual's right to die with dignity, euthanasia, and the right to suicide”

Impact on Education



"I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers that correctly perceive their role as proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being...The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and new -- the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent with the promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of 'love thy neighbor' will finally be achieved." John Dunphy Humanist Magazine Jan/Feb 1983 p.26

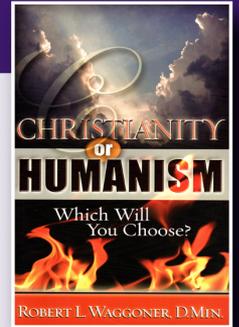
Socializing a Secular Worldview



Secular Worldview becomes redefined through all kinds of Communication That “Socializes” the values:

- Art and Architecture – valued for its independence and being counter culture
- Literature – written without absolutes or objectivity
- Audio-Visual Technology (music, television, movies) – ignores, distorts and blasphemes Christian values and creates a fragmented, distorted view of reality.
- Science – beyond its practical benefits, but gives it status of a god.

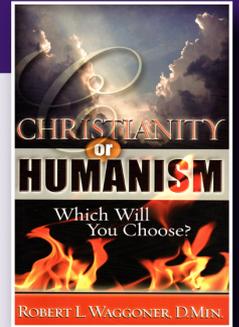
Impact on Christians



And has now influenced even Christians thinking:

- Extols Youth
- Community improvement through politics; civil authority
- Success based on materialism
- Gender roles
- Counseling (instead of scripture)

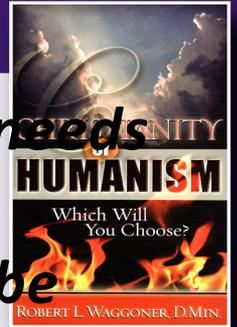
Humanism Affects Your Thinking!



- Because culture is so influential on people, Christians have been influenced by the culture and incorporate unknowingly secular humanists ideas into our thinking
- The Pages that follow review some of the core concepts of Humanism, the cultures interpretation AND how Christians have some times changed in response

See if any fit you!

“Traditional moral codes...fail to meet the pressing needs of today and tomorrow” - “We urge that parochial loyalties and inflexible moral and religious ideologies be transcended.”



The Bible is outdated and does not address the problems faced by people in the 21st century.

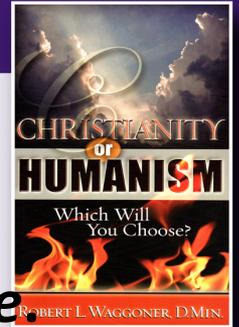
Christian response has been a relaxation of horror toward sin, or worse yet, redefining sin!

“Ethics is autonomous and situational”

What is right and wrong depends on the situation. There are no absolute rights and wrongs.

Christian response has been a “go along to get along” approach to conflict/challenges in life, which is a humanist mind set of “truth is what is best for me!”

***“To enhance freedom and dignity of the individual..
... include a recognition of an individual's right
to die with dignity, euthanasia, and the right to suicide***



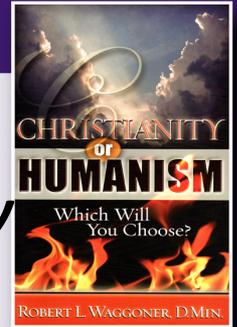
It is moral and should be legal for people to end their own lives when they have terminal illnesses or become incapacitated to a degree that they judge their life to be no longer worth living.

Christians response is to question the value of suffering or why God allows it

“The separation of church and state and the separation of ideology and state are imperatives”.

Religious beliefs must not be allowed to influence government.

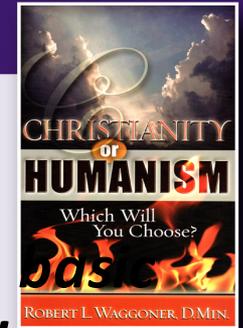
Christians response is “you can’t legislate morality”



“Humane societies should evaluate economic systems not by rhetoric or ideology, but by whether or not they increase economic well-being for all individuals and groups, minimize poverty and hardship, increase the sum of human satisfaction, and enhance the quality of life. Hence the door is open to alternative economic systems.”

Unfair outcomes (capitalism) is inhumane and not fair because everyone does not profit equally by it. Some make much more money than others. State controlled economies and transfer payments are the solution (socialism or communism)

Christians response is to no longer depend on the Biblical Model of personal responsibility and benevolence as the solution, but government intervention.



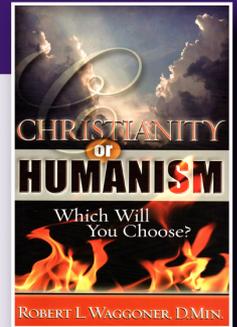
“Technology is a vital key to human progress and development. We would resist any moves to censor scientific research on moral, political, or social grounds. Technology must, however, be carefully judged by the consequences of its use”.

Research using human stem cells from aborted babies or human embryo research should not be prevented based on moral, political, or social grounds because of the potential benefit of mankind to be gained by such research.

Christians response is to be so impressed with medical technology, key questions are no longer asked.

Christian Worldview

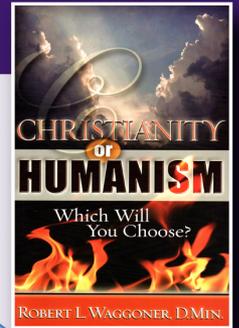
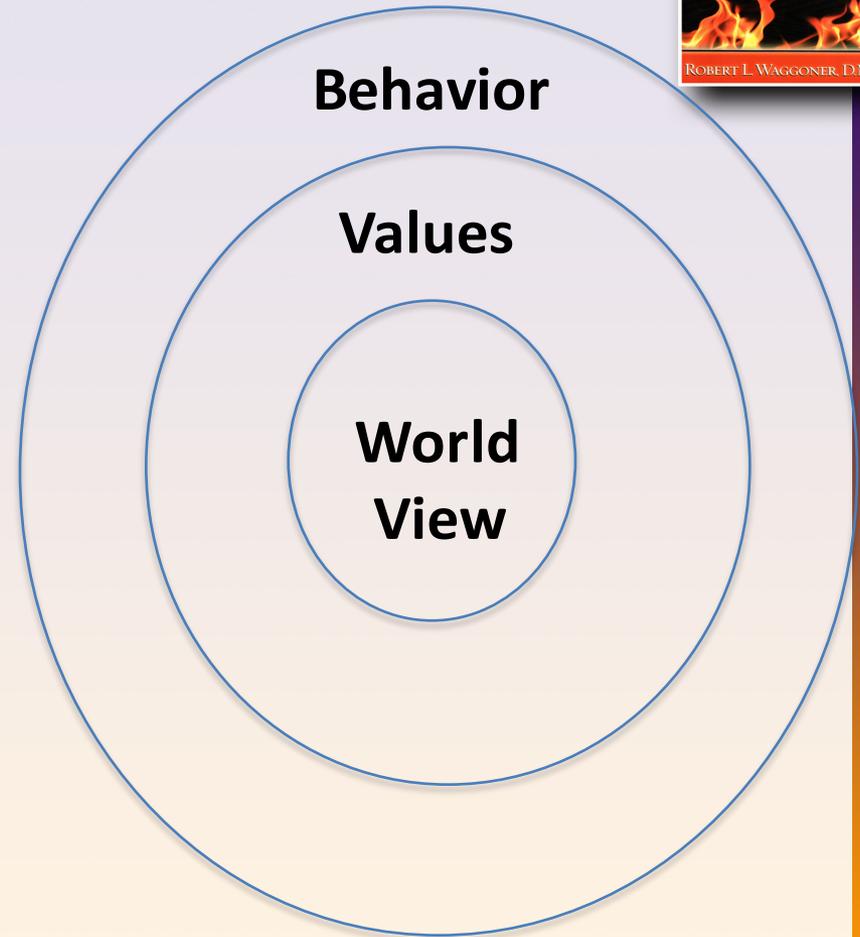
We must maintain a Christian Worldview!



Worldview may be defined as how one sees life and the world at large. It colors, focuses, or blurs the way people see the world. We all assume that we are looking through clear glass when, instead, what we see is affected by the worldview lenses through which we gaze. By carefully examining our worldview glasses, we are able to think more clearly about truth, to understand more accurately why we see things so differently than our non-Christian friends, and to protect ourselves from the influence of non-Christian worldview assumptions.

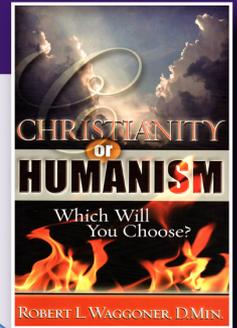
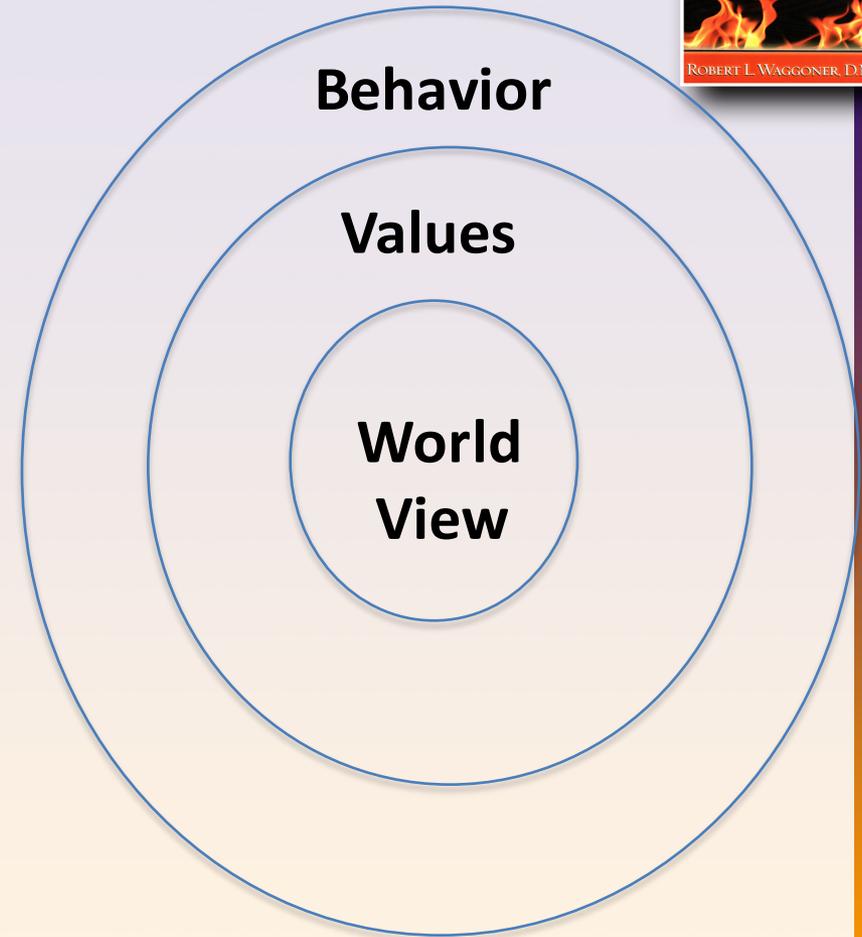
Worldview in Action

Think of three concentric circles used to describe the concept of world view and the way it relates to the larger category of culture. The outermost circle represents behavior. This includes the words we say, the clothes we wear and the actions we take. This superficial level of culture is what we can observe by sitting in a marketplace or walking down a crowded street.



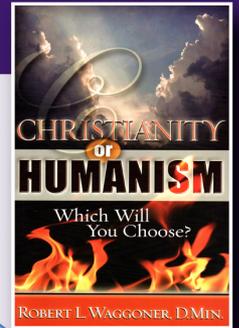
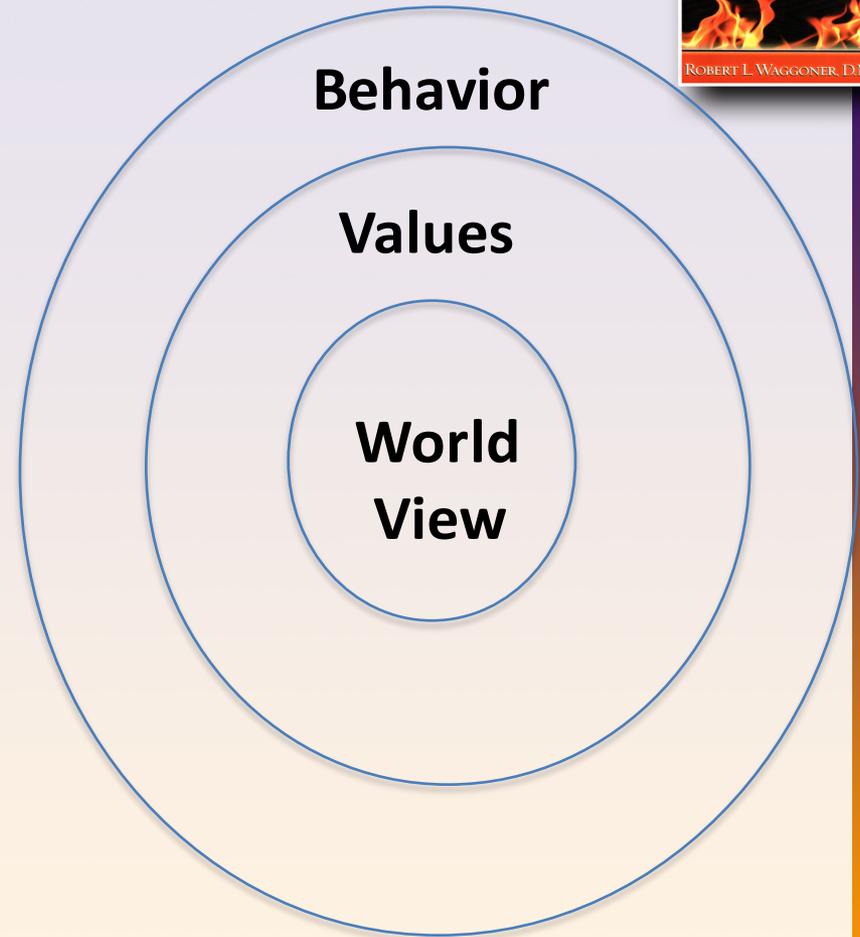
Worldview in Action

A deeper level of understanding is found at the value or belief level of culture. These are the things that people view as important, true and virtuous. This level of culture is what we engage when we have conversations with people and learn how they think and “what makes them tick.”



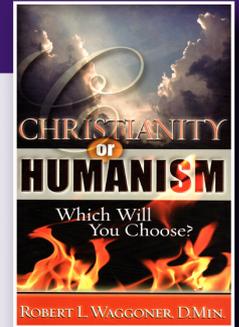
Worldview in Action

The deepest level of culture is world view. This is made up of the fundamental assumptions of a culture. It is the *way* we think before we even know we are thinking. If culture were a computer, world view would be the operating system; behavior and values would be the data on the computer that the operating system organizes and manages.



Christian Worldview #1

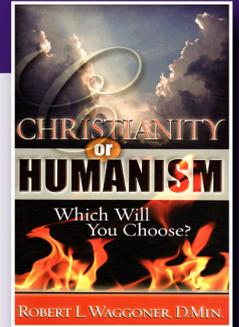
Faith in God VS. Faith in Man



“Worldview” in Christian perspective implies the objective existence of the Trinitarian God whose essential character establishes the moral order of the universe and whose word, wisdom, and law define and govern all aspects of created existence. God is the objective source of truth, his word is the objective conveyer of truth, and his nature is the objective foundation of ethics. Times, temperaments, and cultures may change, but the Christian worldview sees truth as eternally anchored in the transcendent God. Ps. 118:8-9

Christian Worldview #2

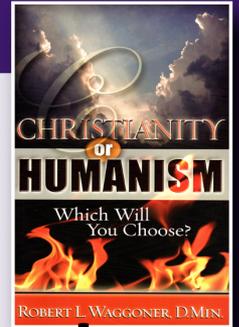
Trust in the Bible VS. Trust in Science



The next essential component of a Christian worldview is the acceptance of the Bible. Scripture, the foundation of knowledge, is not human searching for God, but God's revelation to us. The books of the Bible are human documents, recorded in human languages by human authors. But they are ultimately divine documents whose recordings are true because they were superintended by the Holy Spirit in the recording process. (e.g. 1 Cor. 2:13)

Christian Worldview #3

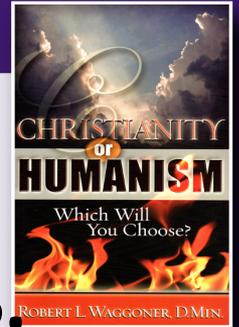
Focus on Christ VS. Evolving to the Perfect Human



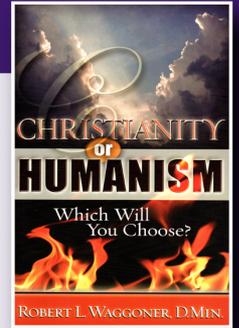
The *center* of a biblical worldview must be the person of Christ. Since all Scripture points to him and radiates from him, He is the key to a coherent biblical worldview. Long before the language of “worldview” and “metanarrative,” the Apostle Paul wrote about Christin Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Col. 2:3

Christian Worldview #4

Confidence in Our Ability to Know VS. Evolving Truth



Built on the first three steps is a confidence in our ability to know absolute truth that does not change. The Christian worldview highly values logic and rationality, which find their source and ground in God, and His Laws for mankind. Truth, then, from the Christian standpoint is discovered not invented. Conversely, Humanism proposes that truth (law) must be reinvented to meet the needs for humanity as it evolves. With this Humanism is consistent with a Post Modern philosophy.



The Christian Worldview Must be Cultivated!

2 Peter 1:2-3

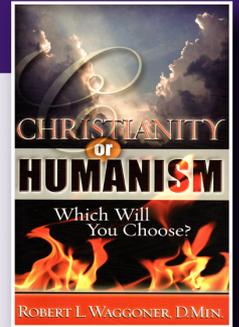
Mark 12:30

Galatians 2:20

Colossians 3:17

Proverbs 3:6

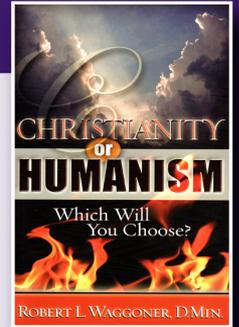
2 Peter 1:2-3



“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue”

- Knowledge – is given (revealed), not invented!
- All things – not compartmentalized
- Pertain to life – your entire worldview
- Through Knowledge – travel through (“dia”) to get the proper worldview

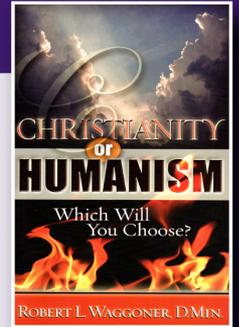
Mark 12:30



'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This [is] the first commandment.

- Love – agape – action equals behavior which comes from values which comes from Worldview
- All – not limited or compartmentalized
- Heart – how you feel and are motivated, Soul – the real you, Mind – how and what you think, Strength – what you put your effort into

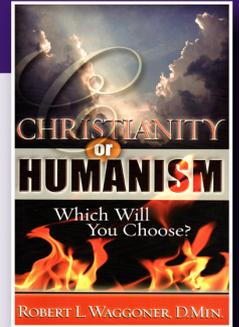
Galatians 2:20



"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

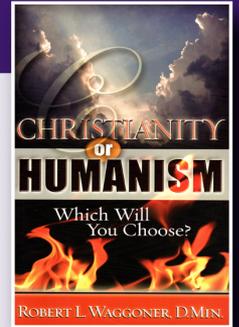
- No longer I – not human focused but Christ focused
- Christ lives in me – defines my worldview
- Live by faith – source of all truth

Colossians 3:17



And whatever you do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- Whatever and All! – Christian Worldview applies to every aspect of life including political, education, law, economics, etc.
- Name – The source of authority for everything



Proverbs 3:6

In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.