

Three Worldviews Parents Need to Confront

by Kenneth Kremer

The power of culture is undeniable. It shapes our ideas about morality, law, history, literature, politics, religion. It informs our attitudes regarding community, family and raising children. In an age dubbed the Post-Christian Era, in which the culture around us is growing increasingly hostile to our convictions, the worldviews our kids embrace should concern us. If we do not teach our children to love Jesus, the world will teach them not to.

Here, then, are three common contemporary challenges to a Christian worldview, along with takeaways for parents seeking to confront them.

1 ONE WORLD, ONE GOD?

God operates in both spiritual and material realities — both in His eternal kingdom and in the created universe of time, space and change where our human story now unfolds. God’s people embrace both realities. Unbelievers know only one.

Teaching this truth to our children is a challenge because our dominant culture dismisses God and exiles spiritual realities to the realm of fiction. The godless myth of only one reality, however, puts children at great spiritual risk. Promises of heaven, miracles, eternal life, prayer, a physical resurrection, angels, Jesus’ real presence or God’s free grace cannot — will not — resonate without a biblical worldview that sees God as the King of all reality, in heaven and on earth.

TAKEAWAY FOR PARENTS:

Make a point of daily communicating the wonders and blessings of belonging to God’s kingdom to your child.

2 THE MORAL SHELL GAME

Perhaps the greatest legacy of Western civilization was a common moral platform based on God’s Ten Commandments. Our secular culture, however, now grants equal status to three alternative moral platforms: constitutional law, scientific studies and popular opinion.

True, all three are useful. We rightly teach our children to see them as blessings from God. But none of them acknowledges that our relationship with God is the only foundation for a God-pleasing ethic. The Constitution is a man-made document. Scientific studies are subject to revision with new information. Popular opinion is fickle. These cannot be viewed as the moral equivalents of God’s Law. They are imposters.

TAKEAWAY FOR PARENTS:

Take advantage of every opportunity to bind God’s commandments to the hearts and minds of your children.

3 A NARCISSISTIC AGE

Narcissism is not a new phenomenon. (Adam and Eve thought they could become God’s equals.) Yet today’s digitally enhanced form of narcissism threatens the faith of many young believers. And who should wonder why? The popular culture bombards them with messages that urge them to trust their own instincts, dream big, plot their own courses. It tells them they are superior to others — bronze gods and goddesses, permanently cast in their own Snapchat images.

Godly character requires an intense focus on humility — which includes shifting your gaze to something beyond yourself. Jesus washed the feet of His followers to teach them humble servitude, saying, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (JOHN 13:14).

TAKEAWAY FOR PARENTS:

Teach your children that greatness in God’s kingdom happens when we trust that Jesus loves us and forgives us and look to Him for our self-worth. They don’t need to turn the world upside-down because He has done it for them on the cross. LW

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