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# **Worldview**

# **A Conflict of Visions**

Present Day Applications

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***For the equipping of the saints – Ephesians 4.12***

## Question to ask when discussing worldviews

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- What are your basic or foundational beliefs or philosophy that determines your viewpoint on this or any other issue?

# Capitalism, Socialism, Communism

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Which system allows man to make choices for production and consumption?
- Which rewards and punishes according to choices—promotes responsibility?
- Which respects the natural differences in people?
- Which respects private property ownership?
- Which produces the most charitable giving?
- Which allows the most freedom of “religion?”

# Capitalism, Socialism, Communism

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- Freedom and responsibility are more compatible with man in the image of God. Choices, responsibility, consequences. Capitalism is more responsive to society and allows greater economic movement. Private property ownership is good. Reasonable taxation. No taxation to penalize wealth or success. Rewards to those who work and take risks. Right to pass on wealth. Government's job is to provide freedom and security so that free exchange of goods and services. Charity is good. Government forced charity is bad.



# Church

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Should the church be free to carry on evangelism and Bible teaching?
- Should the Bible, Christian jewelry, or the mention of God be banned from schools, work, and public buildings?
- Should any “religious” viewpoint be banned from schools, work, and public buildings? If yes, then why?

The logo consists of a square with a dark red border and a light gray gradient background. Inside the square, the letters "SBC" are written in a bold, dark red, serif font.

**SBC**

**Church**

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- The church is the body of Christ. Ideal is to be free from interference by the state. Church is to obey state except where differs from the word of God. Church can pray for government leaders. Church to conduct itself as free and good citizens. State is not to govern the church. No tax to support church. Church to witness to unbelievers and teach believers.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- What is culture? A community's language, beliefs, morals, traditions, institutions, art, government, and ethics.
- Is any culture better than others?
- Is morality important?
- Which standard for morality is better for a nation?

- Culture is the summation of the language, traditions, values, attitude of a nation. There are good and bad cultures. The removal or change of the basic culture will change the values and stability of a nation.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Is the so-called “nuclear” family important?
- Which political beliefs, parties, systems value the family and seeks to protect the family?

- God designed the family to be a father and mother and children. The family also extends to family relatives. The father and mother bring different strengths to the family. Purpose is to raise children in the training and discipline of the Lord. Protect children, teach them, train them, evangelize them, teach them doctrine. Learn authority in the family. Same sex marriages are not family in God's eyes.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Does the Bible say anything about self-defense of life and property? See Exodus 22.1-4
- In the USA, the right to bear arms was recognized by the US Constitution.
- How does gun control relate to individual freedom, justice, and responsibility?

## Gun Control

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- The biblical order makes a family responsible to protect itself and property. More control of guns results more government control of citizens. Most all gun control is to prevent the population from objecting to government.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Do the biblical writers take history seriously?
- Do they think that we ought to learn from history or is history simply one writer's prejudice?
- 1 Corinthians 10 and Hebrews 4?

- We can know past history through the Bible and through documents and artifacts. History began with Adam and Eve. History is the record of what has happened before our time. If we study history, we have less chance to repeat the mistakes of history. The resurrection of Jesus was an historical event. History is not always myth. History is not always propaganda. History is knowable.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- What were foreigners allowed in Israel? They had to comply with certain regulations. Examples, not blaspheme the Lord (Leviticus 24.16), no idolatrous worship (Leviticus 20.2), not work on the Sabbath (Exodus 20.10), and others.
- Could foreigners become citizens? Yes, by submitting to circumcision (Exodus 12.48).
- God wanted Israel's culture to remain intact.

# Immigration

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- The receiving nation sets the rules. Must put first priority on its own citizens, culture, prosperity, stability, and survival.

# Judges – Activist or Traditional

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- God is the supreme judge (Psalm 7.11; 50.6; Acts 10.42).
- How were judges to judge? Justly and righteously (Exodus 18.13; Leviticus 19.15; Deuteronomy 16.18; 1 Kings 3.9).
- Did judges in Israel judge according to a standard? The Bible.
- There must be a fixed standard by which to judge.

# Judges – Activist or Traditional

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- Judges should be fair and impartial. They should follow the constitution of their nation. Judges should not write law. Judges are not to change society.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Is the military a necessary and honorable institution?
- Should a believer support a strong military?
- What about those who trash the US military? Are they really seeking the best interest of the American citizens?

- God has authorized the military for the protection of the nation. It is a part of rendering to Caesar and a part of the national authority's responsibility. Bully nations will rule if peaceful nations allow them to rule. Pacifism is a non-biblical idea. In fact, in the USA today, most so-called pacifism is simply anti-Americanism.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- What part does morality play in a nations health and life?
- What standard for morality has stood the test of time and seems to be the best?
- What happens to nations that become amoral or immoral?

- Morality is a code of right and wrong. Morality recognizes that some ideas and actions are good and some are bad. There must be a standard. God has given the Bible as the absolute written standard. God has given conscience to be morality's inner alarm system.

# Origin of the Universe

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- What are the two choices for origins?
- What does the Bible say about origins?
- Is one's view of origins theologically important?

# Origin of the Universe

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- God created the heavens and the earth, mankind, all creatures, and all physical laws. Any view that rejects this is wrong. Therefore evolution is wrong. Evolution negates the five pillars of a biblical worldview: creation, fall, redemption, resurrection, and judgment.

# Political Principles and Goals

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- How does mankind's sinful nature, yet created in God's image and endowed with volition affect government?
- What did the tower of Babel incident demonstrate? That God purposely separated people into language and geographical groups. Acts 17.26-27 restate this.
- Therefore national entities instead of world government, limited and balanced power instead of uncontrolled power.

# Political Principles and Goals

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- God has set up authority. All rulers rule for God, but not all rulers are godly rulers. Limited government due to OSN and free will. Government is to provide for order and safety so that citizens can carry on their lives free from coercion and fear. Nation states are the standard. World government or large international governments bad. Socialism, communism, dictatorship, anarchy, utopianism are bad.

- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- Jesus said to give to Caesar his due (Matthew 22.17).
- What were tithes? They were the taxes under the Mosaic law. These were a series of tenths.
- The Jewish monarchy and later levied taxes beyond the tithes. These were a hardship on the people.

- The Bible recognizes the right to tax. The Old Testament called for fixed percentage for taxation instead of regressive tax.

# Truth – Absolute or Relative

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- What did Jesus say was the absolute truth?
- Can we know truth or is life simply “agnostic?”
- What happens if we say there is only relative truth?

## Truth – Absolute or Relative

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- Truth can be known. There is one truth, absolute truth. The Bible is the written truth. General revelation is also truth. Truth can be discovered by research and by experimentation. Man can accurately record history.

# Value of Human Life

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- How is mankind different from other created life?
- Does God consider human life sacred?
- What does Genesis 9.6 tell us?
- Traducianism vs Creationism
- Euthanasia and abortion

# Value of Human Life

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- God is the Value of human life. God is the source of human He created mankind in his image. Therefore suicide, euthanasia, partial birth abortion, abortion are wrong. Any devaluation of life is wrong. Abortion brings up the question of when does life begin? Side Bar: Traducianism is the view that the soul is inherited from the parents along with the body. Creationism is the view that God creates the individual soul or life for each individual.

## Work and Welfare

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- Does the Bible present a viewpoint?
- What does the Bible say about planning and working?
- What about helping others who genuinely needy?
- What about those who will not take a job, yet expect a government or an organization to support them?

## Work and Welfare

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- Work began with God creating the world. Adam and Eve worked in the Garden. Since the fall, work has been required to gain what is wanted in life. Those who plan and work for that plan will prosper. Those who choose to be lazy and depend on another's work will become impoverished. There is a normal division between owner and worker. (Proverbs 6.6-11; 30.24-25; 2 Thessalonians 3.8-11)