



NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

The Life Line

JANUARY 2016

“The first worldview allows me to acknowledge as truth only what I want to believe about myself; the second worldview requires me to acknowledge as truth what God says about me.”

A Lesson in Worldview (Brought to You by the Letter “I”)

(The following is an article by author Tim Challies. It can be found online at www.challies.com. Some content has been edited.)

A once-prominent figure in the world of Christian Contemporary Music, is gay. He came out to his family in December of 2004. He retired from singing and touring, in 2005 he separated from his wife to start a new life, and his divorce was finalized. He is now living what he describes as a “normal gay life.”

What fascinates me about this story is its worldview implications.

There are essentially two ways that humans can understand the world. The first way is the way we all understand the world until the Holy Spirit intervenes in our lives and gives us new eyes to see. This worldview is I-centered. I am the center of my own universe and the arbiter of all truth. I may not vocalize things in just this way and may not even think them quite like this, but it is ultimately what I believe. I believe that I am capable of looking at the world and understanding the way it works—who God is, who I am, the relationship between us, and so on.

The other way of seeing the world is God-centered. Here I acknowledge God as the center of all that exists and the arbiter of all truth. Everything that is true and everything that is knowable has its source in Him. Thus I can only interpret the world properly by rightly acknowledging God. This is, obviously, the biblical worldview. It is God who tells me who He is, God who tells me who I am and God who declares the terms of the relationship between us.

The first worldview allows me to acknowledge as truth only what I want to believe about myself; the second worldview requires me to acknowledge as truth what God says about me. The first worldview has to have as its premise that I am ultimately good while the second has as

its premise that God is ultimately good. In the first view I sin against myself while in the second I sin against God. The contrasts could hardly be more pronounced.

Reading about the singer’s story provided an interesting perspective on worldview. Here is what the man said about the freedom he has found in declaring and accepting his homosexuality. “I didn’t have to be who I was in the past. I didn’t have to fit somebody else’s viewpoint of what they thought I was. I could just be myself and I met a lot of wonderful people.” He said also, “If this is the way God made me, then this is the way I’m going to live. It’s not like God made me this way and he’ll send me to hell if I am who he created me to be ... I really feel closer to God because I no longer hate myself.” He states with startling clarity that he rejects God’s assessment of who he is. No longer did He need to fit his...

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- God’s Word is Our Foundation
- Studying the Bible
- God’s Word Guides Us
- God Preserves His Word
- God’s Word is Complete
- Don’t Change God’s Word
- Starting with Scripture
- How Do I Know God Exists?
- What is God Like?
- The Trinity
- The Seven C’s of History
- What is the Gospel?
- Value of a Biblical Worldview

Youth Group Bible Study

Are your personal views in line with biblical truths? We hear many competing truth-claims in our culture today. Scientists claim to be able to “prove” many things, including what happened in the distant past. There are a multitude of religions and faith, all claiming to have the one “truth.” What are we to make of it? And how can we possibly sort out truth from error, or even the

good from the bad?

Our teens will be starting an *Answers in Genesis* study entitled, “We Can Trust the Bible”. They’ll not only learn what’s in the Bible, but they will learn why it’s there, why it’s true, and **how to defend it**. They’ll learn the Seven C’s of History revealing the major events of history that are foundational to the Bible’s important messages.

Beyond that, they will begin to explore who this God is who revealed His mind and will through the pages of Scripture. What is He like? What are His attributes? How might our view of God be distorted?

It’s not enough for our youth to know about the Bible...they need to know how to defend it and their faith. Please encourage your teens to attend on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

JANUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 – Konroy Boeckel 01 – Lyle Dahl 02 – Mila Ahl 02 – Kevin Gleason 06 – Glenn Bjornson	06 – Esther Donahue 06 – Caleb Parker 07 – Rhonda Coenan 12 – Bud McKelvey 12 – Jennifer Neidlinger	13 – Dan Bjorlie 22 – RJ Messner 22 – Spencer Hanson 26 – Krista Briss 29 – Virginia Enstad			1 J. Neidlinger H. Ehlers J. Wentz	2 T. Schmidt C. Avans C. Ahl
3 SS 9:30 AM Serv. 10:30AM	4 K. Gleason Pastor Kapelle L. Alfson	5 Prayer 10 AM A. Ehlers RJ Messner	6 Bible Study & Youth 7 pm R. Coenan J. Stangeland	7 S. Hanson J. Chiang R. Ripplinger	8 B. McKelvey FaHoCha	9 N. Swenson K. Boeckel J. Yri
POTBLESS 10 SS 9:30 AM Serv. 10:30AM	11 J. Davis A. Johnson H. Gleason	12 Prayer 10 AM B. Finneman Arlene Ehlers	13 Annual Mtg. & Youth 7 PM J. Cudworth D. Smaaladen	14 Tyler Gleason J. Ness J. Parker	15 K. Briss B. Hoffarth Christofferson	16 C. Ericrud G. Bjornson B. Bernard
17 SS 9:30 AM Serv. 10:30AM	18 T. Trelfa D. Wallace D. Erickson	19 Prayer 10 AM J. Donahue P. Bjorlie N. Blumhagen	20 Bible Study & Youth 7 pm W. Halverson D. Hoffman	21 S. Burtness H. Messner J. Messner	22 J. Vacura L. Hoffarth Beauchairs	23 J. Schmidt J. Schwieger Jordan Kapelle
24 BREAKFAST 8:30 AM SS 9:30 AM Serv. 10:30 AM 31	25 B. Wegener A. Boeckel H. Anderson	26 Prayer 10 AM V. Enstad Joan Tagendal	27 Bible Study & Youth 7 pm Impact Min. Int.	28 G. Twete S. Walters	29 Gospel 4 Asia O. Gleason	30 WillGo, Inc J. Bjorlie

Missions

Nita Harlen has been attending Trinity Bible College in Ellendale the past two years. She'll be participating in a mission trip to China in the spring of this year.

Nita will be sharing about her planned trip during our morning worship service on January 3.

There will be an opportunity to give a love offering toward her expenses as well.



Lessons...continued from front page

worldview into anyone else's—he was free to accept his own self-assessment. God's assessment is that this man, like me, is a sinful man and one who is tempted and tormented by sin. He is a man who is corrupted by sin and so deeply corrupted that without God's intervention he will more and more resemble the sin that inhabits him. And one sin that this man long wrestled with is the sin of homosexuality. This may well be a kind of besetting sin—a sin that has plagued him since his youth and one that has never lessened its pull on him. Each of us has sins we are more prone to than others and I know there are many Christians who fight lifelong struggles with sexual orientation. But I also know that God can give grace

to overcome even that sin. A God-centered worldview would tell this man that, though he may be somehow inclined to homosexuality, this tendency is a result of sin and it is a tendency that God utterly rejects. A God-centered worldview would tell him that God assesses his sin and calls him to repentance. God does not condone his homosexuality any more than God condones any other sin. Sadly, this singer has an I-centered worldview. He declares without apology that he is gay and, digging a knife into God's back, says that it is God who has made him this way. He rejects God's assessment and instead assesses himself by his own standards and declares that he is good. He piles sin upon sin, accepting his homosexuality as good, rejecting God's declaration that it is sin, divorcing his wife,

living that homosexual lifestyle. The lesson to me in all of this is the importance—the life and death importance—of seeing the world not through my eyes but through God's. God has given us the Bible which allows us, like a pair of glasses that somehow illumines blind eyes, to see the world as He sees it. Through the Bible I find that I am not good but am instead utterly depraved. Incredibly and humilatingly, I find that I have no ability to properly see and understand reality without Him. I find my desperate dependence upon Him to comprehend what may seem so plain and so obvious. I find that I need Him to interpret reality for me because, without Him, I'll get it wrong every time. I need God to teach me to see myself.



New Life Fellowship
2750 Hwy 20
Rural Tolna, ND 58380

We need YOU to attend the
ANNUAL BUSINESS
MEETING

Wednesday, January 13
7:00 PM

**All are welcome to attend
and anyone who is a regular
attendee of NLF is able to vote.*

*We are so blessed to be a part of our New
Life Fellowship family! We love each of
you and are so thankful for your friend-
ship, encouragement and support.*

*Thank you for being such a blessing to us
in so many ways! Happy New Year!*

Pastor Jeff & Karol



Worship Services: S. School 9:30AM
Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM

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