**Topic: The Doctrine of God (General)**

**Worldview Brief: #100**

**Objective**: Understand the big picture of who God is and what scripture says about Him.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Psalm 147:5**: “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.”
* **Psalm 90:2**: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”
* **1 John 4:8**: “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
* **2 Corinthians 13:14:** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Isaiah 43:10 (There is only one God, there will never be nor has ever been another)

# Malachi 3:6 (God is immutable in nature; God does not change)

# Romans 12:19 (God is the one who will inflict justice on the evil in this world)

# Isaiah 42:8 (Glorifying God is the greatest purpose of God Himself and mankind)

# Matthew 3:16-17 (Baptism of Jesus showing the Father, Son, and Spirit)

# Psalms 33:5 (God is not only loving, but a righteous God of justice)

# Genesis 1:1 (God is the Creator of Time (beginning) Space (heaven) and Matter (earth)

# John 20:28 (Jesus Christ is the eternal God in the flesh, the second person of the Trinity)

# John 3:16 (Jesus Christ is the savior of the world for all who believe in Him)

# Hebrews 13:8 (God is the same yesterday, today, and will remain the same forever)

**Summary Statement**: God is the infinite, eternal, unchanging, all powerful and knowing creator of the universe. God has existed eternity past in a perfect community inside is oneness as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (The Trinity). God is a loving, just, righteous, holy, God (to name a few) and is the standard by which all things that are good are based on.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God is self-existent and eternal in nature and there is only one God.
2. God never changes because God is perfect in holiness and righteousness.
3. God is all powerful, knowing, and sovereign over creation and the universe.
4. God is perfect in love, yet that love is balanced in justice, holiness, and mercy.
5. God is communal in nature, and eternally existed as Father, Son, and Spirit.
6. God seeks to glorify Himself and creation’s greatest purpose is to glorify God.
7. God was manifested in the flesh in Jesus Christ to save mankind from sin.

The Seven Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of God

1. **God is self-existent and eternal in nature and there is only one God.**

**Brief Explanation**: There is only one God (Isaiah 43:10). God is eternal in nature, has always existed, and is actually the creator of time itself (Genesis 1:1) because time is part of the universe (which is created). How can God be the uncaused cause? Logic says things that go from not existing to existing need a reason for that transition. God on the other hand always existed, so He doesn’t need a cause.

1. **God never changes because God is perfect in holiness and righteousness.**

**Brief Explanation:** God never changes (Malachi 3:6) and never needs to change, God is already perfect. God has been the same for all time, and will remain the same (Hebrews 13:8). God is not only perfect; God is the standard for perfection. All things good are good because they are compatible with the nature and purposes of God, all things evil are contrary to God’s nature.

1. **God is all powerful, knowing, and sovereign over creation and the universe.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is infinite in power and knowledge (Psalms 147:5) which leads to His sovereign control over all things. God’s power is seen primarily through creation, God brought a universe into existence from nothing simply by speaking. God has all knowledge and power.

1. **God is perfect in love, yet that love is balanced in justice, holiness, and mercy.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is love, by nature, because Godly love (agape in Greek) is a way of explaining how God treats an relates to Himself (Father, Son, and Spirit) and mankind. While God is loving, God is also a good judge who will bring justice. Justice and love are balanced.

1. **God is communal in nature, and eternally existed as Father, Son, and Spirit.**

**Brief Explanation:** Love is only actualized and shown in relationship, for God to be love by nature He must be relational by nature too, and that’s exactly what scripture says. God, who is singular, exists in three persons (relational entities) God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is one (Isa. 43:10) in being and three in personhood (2 Cor. 13:14, Mat. 3:16-17). Three are one.

1. **God seeks to glorify Himself and creation’s greatest purpose is to glorify God.**

**Brief Explanation:** The greatest aim of God is to bring Himself glory (Isa. 48:2) and is also the purpose of creation itself (Psalms 19) and mankind. God’s glory is the greatest good possible.

1. **God was manifested in the flesh in Jesus Christ to save mankind from sin.**

**Brief Explanation:** Jesus Christ is God (John 20:28) in flesh, come to save mankind from the punishment of sin. Jesus Christ is fully God, and fully man, and the only savior (John 3:16).

**Topic: The Doctrine of Scripture**

**Worldview Brief: #190**

**Objective**: Understand the nature and authority of The Bible in the life of a believer.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **2 Timothy 3:16-17**: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
* **Psalm 19:7-9**: “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.”
* [**Hebrews 4:12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4%3A12&version=ESV): “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”
* [**John 17:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3A17&version=ESV): “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Proverbs 30:5 (Every Word of God is true, there is no error in God’s Word)

# Isaiah 40:8 (The Word of God endures forever; it will not fade away)

# Matthew 24:35 (The Word of God will endure forever and not pass away)

# Revelation 22:19 (Do not add or take away from the Word of God)

# Psalm 119:11 (The Word of God guides us in the sanctification process)

# James 1:22: (Gods Word is true in all ways and should not be added to by anyone)

# John 8:31 (In order to be a follower of Jesus Christ, we must follow His Word)

# 2 Peter 1:21 (The Word of God were written as men were guided by the Spirit)

**Summary Statement**: The Word of God, The Bible, is inspired by God, inerrant in content, and the final authority in the life of a believer and the Church. God has determined the books (66 in number) that are in His Word, and no one may add or take away from His Word.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. All scripture (the sixty-six Books of the Bible) are inspired (God breathed) by God.
2. The Word of God is Inerrant by nature in all ways (internally and externally).
3. The Word of God is the final authority in all matters it addresses.
4. The Word of God is final, nothing can be added or subtracted from God’s Word.
5. The Word of God is sufficient to accomplish its purpose of guiding mankind.
6. The Word of God is life changing and living by nature, it is not an ordinary book.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of Scripture

1. **All scripture (the sixty-six Books of the Bible) are inspired (God breathed) by God.**

**Brief Explanation**: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 gives us one of the most important, clear statements about the Word of God, it is “breathed out” by God. The Word means everything in the Bible, everything in scripture, is intended by God. The sixty-six books of the Bible reflect the exact message God desired to deliver to mankind through the prophets and apostles (2 Peter 1:21)

1. **The Word of God is Inerrant by nature in all ways (internally and externally).**

**Brief Explanation:** The Word of God is inspired by God, and because God knows all things, and God cannot lie, everything in scripture is true (Psalms 19:7-9, John 17:17, Proverbs 30:5). There are no errors in the Word of God. There are no two places in His Word that contradict each other, and there is no outside information or facts that contradict His Word. God’s Word is without error in all ways.

1. **The Word of God is the final authority in all matters it addresses.**

**Brief Explanation:** The Word of God is the highest authority in the life of a believer and the Church, because the Word of God is a message from an all knowing, all powerful creator. Nothing, including tradition or societal opinions, have a higher level of authority than the Bible. Jesus demonstrates repeatedly the authority of scripture in His ministry here on earth, always referring to the Old Testament as His authority (Luke 4:1-13 for example).

1. **The Word of God is final, nothing can be added or subtracted from God’s Word.**

**Brief Explanation:** God inspired His Word in two sections, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. These two pieces combine together to form the Word of God, which we call the Bible. The last book written in scripture, Revelation, says nothing is to be added from that point forward (Revelation 22:19) the Bible is complete.

1. **The Word of God is sufficient to accomplish its purpose of guiding mankind.**

**Brief Explanation:** There is no other book, revelation, or piece of information mankind needs to know how to follow God, be saved, and live a Godly life. 1 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us scripture makes God’s followers complete and prepared for every good work. Psalms 19:7-9 shows the Word of God are powerful and able to guide and complete mankind. Psalms 119:11 shows us we grow through His Word, and John 8:31 shows we will follow God’s Word if we follow Him.

1. **The Word of God is life changing and living by nature, it’s not an ordinary book.**

**Brief Explanation:** The Bible is not another book on the shelf, the Bible is able to grow, convict, guide, and draw us to God (Hebrews 4:12) the Bible is a lifeline of Christians.

**Topic: Moral Theology**

**Worldview Brief: #220**

**Objective**: Develop a Biblical understanding concerning the standard of morality in creation.

**Definition**: The following definitions are important to understanding the topic:

* **Morality**: Truth as it relates to proper decisions. What is right and what is wrong for moral beings, such as mankind, who possess a will.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Luke 18:19**: “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.”
* **John 14:6:** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
* [**Isaiah 5:20**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+5%3A20&version=ESV): “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”
* **Deuteronomy 32:4**: “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”
* **2 Timothy 2:13**: “if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Matthew 7:12 (The Word of God tells us what is right and wrong to do)

# Romans 2:15 (The moral law of God is written on our hearts)

# 1 John 2:29 (God is righteous and anyone who is righteous is born of God)

# 1 John 1:5 (God is light, or good, and in Him is no darkness, or evil, at all)

# Psalms 7:11 (God is the moral judge of the universe, and therefore represents the law)

# Malachi 3:6 (The nature and character of God are fixed and will not change)

# Hebrews 6:18 (It is impossible for God to lie, showing God by nature can’t sin)

**Summary Statement**: God is the standard for truth and this standard is unchanging and eternal in nature like God. Right and wrong come from God’s nature and character, our responsibility and goal is to be like God, and God has revealed how to be like Him in His Word.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God is truth, showing morality must be grounded in the nature of God Himself.
2. The Bible shows us God cannot sin because sin by definition contrary to God.
3. God is the source of all things which are good, making God the standard for good.
4. God is the judge of the universe show He represents the moral laws of creation.
5. Right and wrong exist and are grounded in God and will stay the same forever.
6. There is philosophically no other possible standard for absolute truth.

The Five Key Points Regarding: Moral Theology

1. **God is truth, showing morality must be grounded in the nature of God Himself.**

**Brief Explanation**: Jesus makes a fascinating statement in John 14:6, “I am the Truth” the truth is that which is the original standard or reality of all things, and God (Jesus) is that standard. If God is truth, and morality is a question of truth (what are right or wrong moral decisions) it means morality must be grounded in the nature, character, and person of God Himself.

1. **The Bible shows us God cannot sin because sin by definition contrary to God.**

**Brief Explanation:** The above point is made even further when one realizes God cannot sin. Notice it doesn’t say God “doesn’t” sin, it says God can’t sin (Hebrews 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:13). God cannot sin because sin is that which is contrary to what God does. If something is wrong, it is wrong because it is contrary to the nature, character, and purpose of God. Anything that is good is good because it is true to God and His nature, character, and purposes.

1. **God is the source of all things which are good, making God the standard for good.**

**Brief Explanation:** Luke 18:19 tells us only God is good by nature, and that’s because goodness is a description of who God is. 1 John 2:29 tells us the only way to be righteous (good) is to be born of God, because God is the source of goodness and righteousness. 1 John 1:5 shows God is light (good) and in Him is no darkness (evil) at all. God is the standard for right and wrong. God has chosen to reveal Himself and guide us into righteousness by His Word (Matt. 7:12).

1. **God is the judge of the universe show He represents the moral laws of creation.**

**Brief Explanation:** Not only is God the standard, it would naturally follow that God is the judge who will punish, or reward based on the choices of mankind. Psalms 7:11 tells us God is the judge of all things, God represents the moral law because God is the source of the moral law. God’s justice is perfect and good (Isaiah 5:20) because all things God does are perfect and good. If we disagree with God’s decisions, the problem is not God, the problem is our view.

1. **Right and wrong exist and are grounded in God and will stay the same forever.**

**Brief Explanation:** Isaiah 5:20 show us there really is a standard of right and wrong, light and dark, and they shouldn’t be confused. Finally, the standard will never change because God will never change. No matter when or where we live, the moral law of God is the same.

1. **There is philosophically no other possible standard for absolute truth.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is the only possible standard for right and wrong. God has written on our hearts His moral law (Romans 2:15) we know deep down certain things are always wrong, and the only way that’s possible is if there’s a personal, eternal, unchanging, standard in God.

**Topic: Doctrines of Mankind**

**Worldview Brief: #130**

**Objective**: Gain a true perspective of the origins, nature, purpose, and value of mankind.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Genesis 1:26-27**: “Then God said, “Let us make man[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A26-27&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26a)] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
* **Romans 5:12**: “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”
* **Jeremiah 17:9**: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
* **1 Corinthians 10:31**: “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Genesis 1:31 (Everything God made was originally good, including mankind)

# Matthew 22:36-40 (Greatest commands are to love God and love others)

# John 14:15 (Jesus says if you love Him, keep His commandments)

# Isaiah 43:7 (God creates people for the ultimate purpose of glorifying Him)

# Mark 7:21-23 (Mankind by nature since the fall is full of evil not good)

# John 3:19 (People love the darkness (evil) rather than the light by nature)

# Romans 3:10-12 (People are by nature unrighteous and do not seek after God)

# Ephesians 2:1 (By nature humans are dead in their trespasses against God’s law)

# Hebrews 3:18 (Our joy should come from knowing such a wonderful, saving God)

**Summary Statement**: Mankind was created perfect by God originally, made in His image for the sake of knowing, loving, and bringing glory to God. Adam and Eve sinned, mankind is now fallen by nature and in need for redemption (being saved) and should seek to love God and glorify Him above all else.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. Mankind was created by God perfect in the original creation.
2. Mankind was created with great value and worth being in the image of God.
3. Mankind was created with the primary goal of bringing glory to God.
4. Due to Adam and Eve’s sin, all mankind is now sinful (evil) by nature, not good.
5. God desires for mankind to walk in obedience to Him, loving God and loving people.

The Five Key Points Regarding: The Doctrines of Mankind

1. **Mankind was created by God perfect in the original creation.**

**Brief Explanation**: Everything God made in the creation account, including angels, humans, animals, etc. were all created perfect and good (Genesis 1:31). God does not create man with a sinful, fallen nature, but instead a glorified, perfect one. God gives mankind tasks in the Garden, established the family, and walks with Adam and Eve in the Garden showing the close connection God had with mankind before sin entered the world.

1. **Mankind was created with great value and worth being in the image of God.**

**Brief Explanation:** God not only created mankind perfect and good, but God gave mankind a gift that no other creature on earth received. God created mankind in His image, which gives mankind eternal value that nothing else in this world possess. The image of God gives mankind the ability of cognition, morality, free will, and most importantly gives us a deep need and satisfaction in love and relationships. It makes sense, if God Himself, in His Triune nature, is relational and communal that mankind’s deepest need would be relationship and love.

1. **Mankind was created with the primary goal of bringing glory to God.**

**Brief Explanation:** When the purpose of God Himself was examined, we see God does what glorifies Himself before all else. Likewise, mankind is created to glorify God too in all that we do (1 Corinthians 10:31). Furthermore, Isaiah 43:7 directly tells us God created mankind to glorify Him, just as all things were created to glorify God one way or another. We are not the object or focus of creation, all things were created to point to God.

1. **Due to Adam and Eve’s sin, all mankind is now sinful (evil) by nature, not good.**

**Brief Explanation:** Perhaps the most important thing to understand about mankind in the midst of our culture is the nature of mankind now. While mankind was created good, mankind is now fallen by nature as seen in Genesis chapter 3 and reiterated in Romans 5:12. Adam and Eve chose to sin, and because of their sin everyone is sinful by nature. The Bible is abundantly clear about this point. Mark 7:21-23, John 3:19, Romans 3:10-12, and Ephesians 2:1, among other verses, all show mankind is sinful by nature and in need of salvation.

1. **God desires for mankind to walk in obedience to Him, loving God and loving people.**

**Brief Explanation:** God made a way for mankind to be saved and redeemed from our sinful, evil ways. When people chose to follow God, obedience is central to the Christian life. Jesus says if we follow Him, it means obedience to God (John 14:15) and Jesus tells us the two greatest commands are to love God and love people (Matthew 22:36-40). Finally, Hebrews 3:18 tells us our joy should come from our relationship with God.

**Topic: Secular Humanism**

**Worldview Brief: #280**

**Objective**: Understand the dominant cultural view in the West of Secular Humanism.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **2 Peter 3:5-6**: “For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.”
* **Ephesians 4:18**: “They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.”
* **Romans 1:18-23**: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+1%3A18-23&version=ESV#fen-ESV-27935a)] in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Jeremiah 17:9 (Mankind is by nature sinful, fallen, and evil without God)

# Genesis 1:1 (God is the creator of all things, He existed before all things)

# Daniel 2:48 (Daniel is appointed to government and uses his faith while in office)

# 1 Corinthians 10:31 (The purpose of humans is to glorify God in all we do)

**Summary Statement**: God exists and is the judge and king of the universe. Mankind does not determine what is right or wrong, or what the purpose and destiny is of mankind, God does. Mankind is inherently sinful and needs to be saved, and Christians must stand for truth.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God does not exist, there is no creator or moral lawmaker in the universe.
2. Only natural, material processes are allowed as explanations for anything.
3. Morality is determined by an individual or society, no absolute law exists.
4. Mankind either begins morally neutral or inherently good by nature.
5. Separation of Church and State is important to a healthy society.
6. Elevating humans is the highest goal of secular humanism.

The Six Key Points Regarding: Secular Humanism (Rebuttals)

1. **God does not exist, there is no creator or moral lawmaker in the universe.**

**Brief Explanation**: The existence of God can be established in many ways, philosophically, scientifically, historically, and Biblically. Philosophy and science tell us two key things: Everything that has a starting point has a cause, and the universe had a starting point which would require a cause (God). History shows us Jesus rose from the dead authenticating His message, and the Bible shows us prophecy proving God exists and is outside time. Just as Genesis 1:1 says, God is the creator of all things, no way around it.

1. **Only natural, material processes are allowed as explanations for anything.**

**Brief Explanation:** The argument basically says “naturalism is right because it’s the only standard we can use” they essentially remove the possibility of a super-natural explanation to prove there is no supernatural explanation, which is circular. Romans 1 actually tells us all people who there is a God, some just suppress the truth because they don’t want to accept God is the creator and judge of the universe (2 Peter 3:5-6 says the same thing).

1. **Morality is determined by an individual or society, no absolute law exists.**

**Brief Explanation:** If morality is determined by an individual there would be no morality. Only with an eternal, unchanging standard can you say “Hitler was wrong” and it be absolutely true. If truth is decided by an individual, you might disagree with Hitler but could never say he was wrong for killing millions, which is absurd. Morality is written on our hearts by God (Romans 1)

1. **Mankind either begins morally neutral or inherently good by nature.**

**Brief Explanation:** Perhaps the greatest lie bought by our culture is the belief humans are by nature good and deserve good. Quite the opposite is true (Jeremiah 17:9) mankind is sinful by nature and needs to be saved, but people reject it because they love their sin.

1. **Separation of Church and State is important to a healthy society.**

**Brief Explanation:** A healthy society is one built on truth, and truth comes from God and is expressed primarily in His Word. The Church is not meant to separate from the state, but to influence all areas with truth and Godly principles and morality. Daniel is one example of a follower of Christ in government (Daniel 2:48) as is Joseph and others in scripture.

1. **Elevating humans is the highest goal of secular humanism.**

**Brief Explanation:** Secular humanism says elevate humans; the Bible says elevate (glorify) God above all else (1 Corinthians 10:31). Only when God is exalted and elevated will anyone have lasting joy, peace, and fulfillment. Mankind will let you down every time.

**Topic: The Doctrine of Salvation**

**Worldview Brief: #140**

**Objective**: Understand the nature and authority of The Bible in the life of a believer.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Ephesians 2:8-9**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
* **1 Peter 2:24**: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
* **Isaiah 53:4-6**: “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
* [**Acts 3:19**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3%3A19&version=ESV): “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Matthew 4:17 (Jesus commands all people to repent of their sins to enter the kingdom)

# 1 John 1:9 (If we confess/repent of our sins, God will forgive us for our sins)

# Titus 3:5 (Salvation is by the mercy of God and working of the Holy Spirit)

# Romans 10:9 (Our views of Jesus’ deity and resurrection are central to salvation)

# Matthew 7:21 (True salvation will bring fruit and obedience to God)

# John 6:44 (No one comes to God on their own, God has called people to faith)

# Romans 3:23 (Everyone is a sinner and cannot earn their salvation but need grace)

# John 14:6 (Jesus is the only way to have eternal life, no other true savior exists)

# Isaiah 61:8 (The Lord God loves justice, He will punish evil and sin)

**Summary Statement**: All have sinned and need to be saved. The only way to be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins upon Himself so that all sin is paid for, but demonstrates His love and grace by taking that punishment upon Himself. Faith encompasses by repentance and belief in Jesus Christ, God in the flesh.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God is perfect in His justice and will punish all sin committed by mankind.
2. God came in the person of Jesus to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself.
3. Salvation is only possible because God has called us and made it possible.
4. Salvation is a free gift from God and cannot be earned by good works.
5. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance from sin.
6. If we are saved, we will begin to walk in obedience to God and produce fruit.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of Salvation

1. **God is perfect in His justice and will punish all sin committed by mankind.**

**Brief Explanation**: God loves justice (Isaiah 61:8) and will punish every sin committed by mankind. God is the judge of the universe, and a good judge does not overlook and ignore evil that is done against the moral law. Just as a good judge today will punish a criminal for their evil acts, despite how much good they do, God will punish all sin fairly and justly.

1. **God came in the person of Jesus to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself.**

**Brief Explanation:** While God is the judge who punishes all sin, God made a way for the punishment of our sins to be placed on another, Himself. The Bible makes it clear all sin (Romans 3:23) and need a savior to escape judgment. Isaiah 53:4-6 shows us God puts the punishment for our sins on the Messiah (Jesus Christ) which is confirmed in 1 Peter 2:24. The punishment for our sins is not ignored by God, but instead God the Father pours out the punishment we deserve on God the Son on the cross.

1. **Salvation is only possible because God has called us and made it possible.**

**Brief Explanation:** Salvation is only possible because God stepped out of heaven and came to earth to die and take the punishment for our sins. Salvation is again only possible because God has called each of us (John 6:44) and given us a new life in Christ (Titus 3:5) by His Spirit.

1. **Salvation is a free gift from God and cannot be earned by good works.**

**Brief Explanation:** Ephesians 2:8-9 gives us the best picture of the salvation message. First, we are saved by the grace of God, which means it’s not something we earn but a free gift from God. Second, we are saved by faith and trusting in the work of Jesus Christ, not our own works. The verse makes it as clear as possible, “not a result of works” but a result of God’s grace and kindness towards us.

1. **Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance from sin.**

**Brief Explanation:** Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9, John 14:6) and encompasses two parts. First is belief in Jesus Christ, which includes believing He is who He claims, God in flesh (Romans 10:9) and believing His death is the only way for our sins to be paid for and forgiven and His resurrection was proof of His accomplish this task. Second is repentance from sin (Acts 3;19, Matthew 4:17, 1 John 1:9) which is a desire to turn away from sin and pursue Godliness and righteousness. Faith and Repentance bring salvation.

1. **If we are saved, we will begin to walk in obedience to God and produce fruit.**

**Brief Explanation:** If we believe in Jesus and love God, we will walk in obedience (Matt. 7:21).

**Topic: World Religion General**

**Worldview Brief: #400**

**Objective**: Understanding the foundational reasons for why Christianity is exclusive true and other religions are false.

# Primary Scripture(s):

# John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

# John 8:24: “I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

* **2 Peter 1:19**: “And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Galatians 1:6-10 (Do not believe another gospel, even if an angel or apostle gives it)

# 1 Timothy 2:5 (There is only one mediator between God and mankind, Jesus Christ)

# 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (The resurrection is the foundation of the Christ faith)

# Relevant Information: General Overview of Major World Religions:

* **Islam**: A monotheistic religion that says Jesus is a prophet not God, claims salvation is by works, God (Allah) is revealed through the Qur’an, Muhammad is the founding prophet.
* **Hinduism**: A polytheistic religion (many gods) which says many paths lead to “heaven” (Moksha) God is an impersonal force, salvation by good karma, no single founder.
* **Buddhism**: Similar to Hinduism, followers the teachings of the Buddha, god (if it exists) is impersonal, people find their own path to Nirvana (salvation).
* **Catholicism**: Close to true Christianity but at its core differing views on salvation.
* **Pseudo-Christian Groups**: Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, WMSCOG, all recently founded in history with key issues of distorting God’s nature and method of salvation.

**Summary Statement**: Thousands of religions exist and stand in stark contrast to the truth presented in The Bible. The key reasons to believe Christianity are based on Jesus Christ and the nature of The Bible and the historicity, verifiability, and explanatory nature of the faith.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. The Resurrection as the Foundational Claim of Christianity.
2. The Nature of the Bible as Authenticating Divine Inspiration in Prophecy.
3. The Dilemma Liar, Lunatic, or Lord Trilemma presented by C.S. Lewis.
4. The Fruit of the Work of Jesus Christ and Teachings of Jesus Christ.
5. The Comprehensive Nature of the Christian Worldview in Explanatory Power.
6. Understanding Why Other Religions Exist from a Biblical Perspective.

The Six Key Points Regarding: World Religion General

1. **The Resurrection as the Foundational Claim of Christianity.**

**Brief Explanation**: Paul gives a blunt statement in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christianity is hopeless and pointless. The resurrection is the key event and truth which sets Christianity apart from every other religion. Jesus proved He was not a mere prophet but was God in the flesh, and the message of salvation is authenticated by Jesus defeating death. The resurrection is a unique claim in religious claims because the resurrection can be demonstrated historically, showing Jesus is God and Christianity true.

1. **The Nature of the Bible as Authenticating Divine Inspiration in Prophecy.**

**Brief Explanation:** 2 Peter 1:19 says prophecy is the greatest witness to the truth of Christianity. General prophecy and Messianic prophecy both show The Bible was inspired by someone outside time (which only God is) because the events predicted would be impossible to guess without seeing the future hundreds of years prior. Prophecy demonstrates The Old and New Testament are from God, and Jesus authenticated the Bible as His Word too.

1. **The Dilemma Liar, Lunatic, or Lord Trilemma presented by C.S. Lewis.**

**Brief Explanation:** Looking at the person of Jesus, we have three options to choose from. First, Jesus could be a liar, but why would a liar go to His death for a lie He made up? Jesus taught against lying, so that doesn’t make sense of His actions or character. Second, Jesus could be a lunatic, thinking He is God when He is not. Lunatics do not teach with the skill Jesus had, lunatics can’t heal people, and those around Him would discover His insanity and not go to their death for Him. The other option? Jesus is Lord, is really God, and Christianity is true.

1. **The Fruit of the Work of Jesus Christ and Teachings of Jesus Christ.**

**Brief Explanation:** The Kingdom of God on earth has done more good in history than any other organized effort. The fruit of Jesus Christ, the number of followers, and the level of devotion is unmatched by any regime, religion, philosophy, or nation in history.

1. **The Comprehensive Nature of the Christian Worldview in Explanatory Power.**

**Brief Explanation:** “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” C.S. Lewis. One of the greatest witnesses of Christian truth is the ability of Christianity to explain everything comprehensively.

1. **Understanding Why Other Religions Exist from a Biblical Perspective.**

**Brief Explanation:** Jesus is the only savior (John 14:6) but the goal of the devil is to pull people away from God. The best way? Create a world of confusion a deception in other religions.

**Topic: The Doctrine of Life**

**Worldview Brief: #240**

**Objective**: Understand the reason life has intrinsic value and purpose from God.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Genesis 1:27**: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.
* **Psalm 139:13-14**: “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
* **Job 12:10**: “In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.
* **Job 1:21**: “And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”
* **Revelation 7:9** “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Genesis 9:6 (Judgement will come for murder because it violates the image of God)

# Job 33:4 (The Spirit of God is the one that gives life to mankind from the beginning)

# Jeremiah 1:5 (God knew us even before we existed in the womb, He created us)

# Acts 17:26 (All people in the world come from the same ancestors and are one family)

# 1 Corinthians 10:31 (The purpose of mankind is to glorify God in everything we do)

# Psalms 86:12 (Glorifying God is the eternal purpose of mankind and all things)

# 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (We do not own our bodies; Jesus has purchased us and owns us)

# Ecclesiastes 8:8 (The time of our death is ordained and controlled by God)

# Psalms 139:16 (God has created, ordained, and determined our number of days)

**Summary Statement**: Mankind was created in the image of God and has intrinsic value from God and violating a life (murder) is against the law of God. God ordained life from the womb until natural death, and we should glorify God and follow Him before all else.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. Mankind is created in the image of God and has instinct worth and value.
2. Life begins at the point of conception, babies in the womb are fully human.
3. Life is a sacred gift created by God and violating the sanctity of life is evil.
4. God has created people differently and racial/ethnic different are valued by God.
5. Life should not be ended (unless to uphold justice/safety) outside natural causes.
6. Mankind exists to glorify God and find out joy and pleasure in His glory.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of Life

1. **Mankind is created in the image of God and has instinct worth and value.**

**Brief Explanation**: Mankind is very unique in the created order, being the only created being identified as being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Being created in God’s image gives us an intrinsic value, and is the reason murder is wrong (Genesis 9:6). Being made in God’s image in part entails our eternal, spiritual nature, which is why life has such great value. The value of life is not based on the quality as our culture says but is given value by God.

1. **Life begins at the point of conception, babies in the womb are fully human.**

**Brief Explanation:** Life and the image of God are on humans from the point of conception. God is the one who ordained, created, and design us in the womb (Psalms 139:13-14) and His Spirit gave us life (Job 33:4). Actually, God knew us before we were in the womb, the idea of our being existed in His mind eternally past (Jeremiah 1:5) showing no one is an accident.

1. **Life is a sacred gift created by God and violating the sanctity of life is evil.**

**Brief Explanation:** Violating the image of God, murdering, and destroying life, is evil. From the first moment in the womb until we take our last breath, life is sacred. There are times when taking life is necessary to preserve life or bring justice, but the unjust violation of the image of God is always wrong. God is the sovereign giver and taker of life (Job 1:21 and Job 12:10).

1. **God has created people differently and racial/ethnic different are valued by God.**

**Brief Explanation:** Racism has existed throughout history, and still exists today. Science has now confirmed what scripture told us all along, all mankind came from Adam and Eve and are actually the same family (Acts 17:26, Genesis 3:20) and therefore racism makes no sense. Furthermore, ethnicity and race (people group subdivisions) bring joy to God and can glorify God in many ways. In heaven (Rev. 7:9) people appear to maintain some ethnic uniqueness.

1. **Life should not be ended (unless to uphold justice/safety) outside natural causes.**

**Brief Explanation:** There are a few cases when life can be ended for the sake of safety or justice. Self-defense is allowed and not called murder, and authorities such as governments are told they can execute people to uphold justice. Outside those examples, life should not be ended outside natural causes. It does not matter how painful or low the quality of life is, life is sacred from conception until natural death, which is in God’s hands (Psalms 139:16).

1. **Mankind exists to glorify God and find out joy and pleasure in His glory.**

**Brief Explanation:** Our purpose, and the purpose of all things, is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31) and find our pleasure in Him. Glorifying God remains our purpose in eternity too (Ps.86:12).

**Topic: The Doctrines of Sexuality**

**Worldview Brief: #240**

**Objective**: Properly understand the Biblical purpose and design of the family.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Genesis 1:27-28**: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
* **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**: “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
* [**Proverbs 5:18-19**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+5%3A18-19&version=ESV)**:** “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.”
* [**Matthew 5:28**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A28&version=ESV): “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# 1 Corinthians 7:5 (Sex should be a healthy, active part of marriage relationships)

# 1 Corinthians 6:19 (Flee from sexual immorality, it is very damaging to you)

# Genesis 2:16-18 (God creates Eve as a complementing helper to Adam)

# Genesis 3 (The fall of man brought struggles for the roles/relationships in marriage)

# Ephesians 5:21-33 (Men and women are unique in many ways, not just biologically)

**Summary Statement**: God created male and female to be two complementing parts of mankind. Male and female come together in a lifelong commitment of marriage and sex is a gift from God for marriage. Sex outside the Biblical definition for marriage is always sinful.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God created and ordained male and female as the two sexes of genders.
2. God created male and female to complement each other in many ways.
3. Male and female come together in a lifelong commitment called marriage.
4. Sex is a gift from God to married couples to strengthen their bond to each other.
5. Sex in any context outside Biblical marriage is sinful and dishonoring to God.
6. Sexual purity is concerned not only with actions, but thoughts and intents.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrines of Sexuality

1. **God created and ordained male and female as the two sexes of genders.**

**Brief Explanation**: God is the designer of life and created mankind in two ways, male and female (Genesis 1:27-28). All through scripture, there is no difference between biological sex (man and woman) or gender (male and female) they are the same. There is no way to change from one sex/gender to the other. God is the one who chose how you would be created, and mankind should not violate God’s created design.

1. **God created male and female to complement each other in many ways.**

**Brief Explanation:** One of the strongest Bible-wide truth’s is that God created man and women of equal value, yet different biologically, emotionally, mentally, and in their roles. Genesis 2:16-18 shows how Eve was created not to be the same as Adam, but to complete and bring a complementing nature to him, and the fall shows why this relationship struggle now in the curse that comes on the world (Gen. 3). Men & women were made differently (Eph. 5:21-33).

1. **Male and female come together in a lifelong commitment called marriage.**

**Brief Explanation:** The Bible repeatedly shows marriage is between a man and women in a life-long commitment (Genesis 1 & 2). Marriage is where these complementing two (male and female) come together into one (two become one) and reach the deepest level of relational intimacy and companionship possible between two humans.

1. **Sex is a gift from God to married couples to strengthen their bond to each other.**

**Brief Explanation:** Sex is not a bad thing; sex is actually a very good gift from God given to men and women who are in a marital relationship (Proverbs 5:18-19). Sex is a healthy, regular part of a God honoring marriage (1 Corinthians 7:5) and creates a deep bond between spouses.

1. **Sex in any context outside Biblical marriage is sinful and dishonoring to God.**

**Brief Explanation:** Many good gifts God created for mankind can be abused, and sex has been abused more than most other things. Fornication (sex outside marriage) adultery (cheating on your spouse) homosexuality (violating the created order of male and female) are all distortions of God’s design, and therefore sinful (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Christians should flee those sexual sins and seek to honor God with our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19) and not violate His created order. There is no such thing as God honor sex unless it’s a man and women who are married.

1. **Sexual purity is concerned not only with actions, but thoughts and intents.**

**Brief Explanation:** Jesus makes it clear our thought life is just as important as actions. God commands us not to think impure thoughts (Eph. 5:21-33) because it’s equally sinful.

**Topic: The Doctrine of Family**

**Worldview Brief: #230**

**Objective**: Properly understand the Biblical purpose and design of the family.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Genesis 1:27-28**: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
* [**Exodus 20:12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20%3A12&version=ESV): “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”
* [**Proverbs 22:6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+22%3A6&version=ESV): “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
* **John 13:34-35**: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
* **Matthew 19:4-5**: “He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Genesis 2:24 (One man and one woman in marriage go from being two, to one)

# Colossians 3:20 (Children are to obey their parents because it pleases God)

# Ephesians 5:21 (Husbands are commanded to love; wives are commanded to respect)

# Ephesians 5:25 (Family relationships should show the love and commitment of God)

# Acts 10:2 (God is honored when families serve and follow His commandments)

# Ephesians 2:19 (Those who follow Christ are part of the household or family of God)

**Summary Statement**: Families were created by God to provide relationship, community, and a stable environment for children to grow and learn right and wrong. Families should seek to honor and glorify God together, and Christians need to understand the value of God’s family.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. Marriage is a life-long commitment and covenant between man and women.
2. Marriage is the beginning of family and the foundation for children.
3. The role of parents is to disciple, discipline, care for, and love their children.
4. Children have the responsibility to obey and submit to their parents.
5. Families should seek to work together to grow, serve, and glorify God.
6. The family of God should be a close-knit group of believers serving God.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of Family

1. **Marriage is a life-long commitment and covenant between man and women.**

**Brief Explanation**: Marriage was designed by God as revealed in Genesis 1:27-28 as male and female (Matthew 19:4-5) with a complementing nature between male and female that bring a type of completeness and oneness (two become one) which reflects God’s Triune nature of three and one. God intends for the marital relationship to be life-long (Genesis 2:24) because two have become one, and God desires commitment as the foundation of marriage.

1. **Marriage is the beginning of family and the foundation for children.**

**Brief Explanation:** Families can exist without two parents, but a single-family household is not the ideal situation. It’s not to say a single mom or dad can’t honor God and effectively raise their children, but God desires for a stable household where both father and mother invest, love, and discipline their children. Husbands and wives should build their marriage and create a healthy household. Husbands love their wives, and wives respect your husbands (Eph 5:21).

1. **The role of parents is to disciple, discipline, care for, and love their children.**

**Brief Explanation:** In the Bible, parents are not called to be best friends with their children, but a role model, authority figure, mentor, and guide. Parents are to care-for and love their children, but their role is to prepare their children and teach them to follow Christ (Proverbs 22:6) and fear God above all else.

1. **Children have the responsibility to obey and submit to their parents.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is a God of order and desires for authority, structure, and restraints be placed on the evil nature and desires of mankind. One purpose of the family, as it relates to children, is to bring discipline and authority into a child’s life. Parents are to restrain the sin nature of their children and teach them what is right. Children are commanded repeatedly in the Bible to obey their parents and not defy God’s ordained structure (Ex. 20:12, Col. 3:20).

1. **Families should seek to work together to grow, serve, and glorify God.**

**Brief Explanation:** God desires for all things to bring Him glory. Marriage should point people towards God as they demonstrate love and commitment like God, parents should point children to God, and families should work together to build God’s kingdom (Acts 10:2).

1. **The family of God should be a close-knit group of believers serving God.**

**Brief Explanation:** Another family spoken of throughout the Bible is the family of God. God’s family should be a priority, we should love each other (Ephesians 2:19) and value the spiritual family of God higher than any family on earth (although worldly family is still important).

**Topic: The Doctrine of Vocation**

**Worldview Brief: #XXX**

**Objective**: Gain a proper understand of a Biblical work ethic and the purpose & value of work.

# Primary Scripture(s):

[**Philippians 2:14-15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A14-15&version=ESV): “Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”

[**Colossians 3:23**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A23&version=ESV): “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men”

[**Titus 2:7-8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+2%3A7-8&version=ESV): “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”

**Genesis 2:15**: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

**Exodus 20:10-11**: “but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Proverbs 14:23 (Hard work results in being supplied with our needs in this world)

# 2 Thess. 3:10-12 (Those who are able to work yet don’t should not be provided for)

# Proverbs 16:3 (We should commit our work to the Lord and do all things for Him)

# 1 Timothy 5:8 (Not working and providing for your family is sinful)

# Genesis 3:17 (The curse of sin includes pain and hardship in labor and work)

# 1 Corinthians 10:31 (All things we do, including work, should glorify God)

**Summary Statement**: Mankind was created in the image of God and has intrinsic value from God and violating a life (murder) is against the law of God. God ordained life from the womb until natural death, and we should glorify God and follow Him before all else.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God Himself did work in creating the heavens and the earth.
2. God created mankind to work, have responsibility, and care for things.
3. Work before the fall and after the fall of mankind were very different.
4. God commands mankind after the fall to continue working to make a living.
5. God tells mankind to work six days a week but keep it balanced with a sabbath.
6. Work can honor God and should be done in a way that glorifies God always.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of Vocation

1. **God Himself did work in creating the heavens and the earth.**

**Brief Explanation**: God made the whole universe in six days (Genesis 1) and rested on the seventh day (Exodus 20:11). Even God worked, and the problem is work has a negative connotation in our minds. The idea of work is not bad, although work is not difficult in our world. Creating, imagining, accomplishing, and producing are all things God did in creation.

1. **God created mankind to work, have responsibility, and care for things.**

**Brief Explanation:** Even in the Garden of Eden when God created Adam, God immediately gave him a task to accomplish of tending to the Garden and the animals (Genesis 2:15). Adam and Eve worked the garden, helped it produce, took care of the garden, all before sin entered the world. Work can be a blessing, giving us purpose and a way to impact the world around us.

1. **Work before the fall and after the fall of mankind were very different.**

**Brief Explanation:** Granted, before the fall work did not have the difficulties it did after the fall. In Genesis 3, we see the fall of mankind came with a curse on the world, and part of that curse was hardship, pain, and stress in working. It doesn’t matter if you work out of home or in the home, everything tends towards disorder and the creation now works against order, cleanliness, and production towards chaos and disorder.

1. **God commands mankind after the fall to continue working to make a living.**

**Brief Explanation:** Many places in scripture command mankind to continue working (Titus 2:7-8, 2 Thess. 3:10-12, Proverbs 14:23) whether that is going outside the home to provide for the family, or being at home caring for the home, tending to the family needs, etc. The Bible makes it clear being lazy and not providing for your family is sinful (1 Timothy 5:8) and those who want to be provided for in this world (if they are able) should work regularly.

1. **God tells mankind to work six days a week but keep it balanced with a sabbath.**

**Brief Explanation:** Work is important and is the norm for a day in this world, yet God has set the example in His creation work that rest needs to exist and days for being refreshed must be prioritized in our lives. The Biblical model is work six days, rest one day. The day of rest should be committed to the Lord to rest in Him, worship Him, be refreshed by Him (Exodus 20:11).

1. **Work can honor God and should be done in a way that glorifies God always.**

**Brief Explanation:** Work is meant to be one avenue by which we can glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31 & Col. 2:23) and everything we do should be done with honor and integrity (Prov. 16:3)

**Topic: The Role & Purpose of Government**

**Worldview Brief: #260**

**Objective**: Understand the role and purpose of government as ordained by God.

# Primary Scripture(s):

# Romans 13:1-7 (ESV) “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”

# Mark 12:17 (ESV) “Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Acts 5:29 (Obey God before all else if government wants you to do something sinful)

# 1 Peter 2:13-17 (Be subject to the governing authorities, be great citizens)

# 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (Pray for those leading in government, pray for peaceful societies)

# Titus 3:1 (Be submissive to the rulers and authorities, i.e. the government)

# Joel 3:1-3 (God will judge all the nations for their wickedness in the end)

# Daniel 4:32 (God is sovereign and controls the nations of the world)

# Psalms 75:7 & Isaiah 45:1-5 (God judges nations throughout history using other nations)

**Summary Statement**: Government was ordained by God to serve the purpose of upholding good and restraining evil in the world. Governments do not always do this well, but Romans 13:1-7 shows that is the intent of God’s ordaining of Government.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. Government is ordained to uphold good and restrain evil in the world.
2. Christians should follow God first, and then be the best citizens they can be.
3. God caused the multiplicity of nations to avoid a one world government.
4. God uses one nation to judge another nation as a means of restraining evil.
5. God is sovereign over all nations and uses them for His divine plan.
6. God will judge all nations of the world in the end for turning against Him.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Role and Purpose of Government

1. **Government is ordained to uphold good and restrain evil in the world.**

**Brief Explanation**: Romans 13 & Isaiah 45:1-5 show God has ordained governments to primary uphold good and restrain evil. Governments uphold good (prescriptively) by creating a peaceful country where citizens can thrive. Governments should also care for the poor and defend the fatherless, showing their positive role of doing good. The more clear role of government is to punish evil (**“he does not bear the sword in vain”)** because mankind is inherently evil and wicked, and God has kindly placed restraints like governments in the world.

1. **Christians should follow God first, and then be the best citizens they can be.**

**Brief Explanation:** Acts 5:29 tells us God is to be obeyed before the government, but in most settings the vast majority of what the government requires of its citizens does not violate the commands of God. Taxes, for example, are specifically identified by Jesus and Peter as ways Christians should submit to the government, even if we think there are better ways to spend them. Submit to the government? Yes, unless the government commands sin.

1. **God caused the multiplicity of nations to avoid a one world government.**

**Brief Explanation:** At the Tower of Babel, God intentionally split mankind into language groups with the goal of spreading them around the world and avoiding a single government system. The reason why is if one nation exists and goes bad, there is no other nation to rise against them and restrain the evil. God wants multiple nations for “accountability” and judgement.

1. **God uses one nation to judge another nation as a means of restraining evil.**

**Brief Explanation:** The Old Testament shows God routinely uses one nation to judge another. Isaiah, Daniel, and others speak of this truth. God used Babylon to judge Israel, then used the Persians to judge Babylon, and so on. God uses them to judge their citizens and other nations.

1. **God is sovereign over all nations and uses them for His divine plan.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is working behind the scenes to bring about His glory and will even when dealing with nations. Not every nation is God, but every nation is subject to the sovereign authority of God. God is the one who causes them to rise and fall.

1. **God will judge all nations of the world in the end for turning against Him.**

**Brief Explanation:** God ordained government and gave a purpose for them (prescriptive) but they often do not obey (descriptive) and chose to do evil. Romans 13 isn’t saying governments do those things well (descriptive) but that they should be doing it (perspective) and because governments are often wicked in their actions and decisions, like mankind, God will bring judgment on the nations of the world in the end for their wickedness.