

Lesson 2

The Impact of Worldviews on Africa

I. How are worldviews spread?

- A. Ideologically: _____ > Artists > Professionals > Common man
- B. Geographically: City > _____ > Continent > World
- C. Generationally: Parents > Children > Grand-children > Great grand-children

II. What is the impact of worldviews and _____ on corporate performance?

The culture of an organization will determine its decision-making process and in turn its overall performance.

- A. Culture affects the _____ of problems.
- B. Culture affects objectives and constraints for issues and the way we formulate measures for these (cognitive maps).
- C. Culture affects how we model options to _____ and decisions and how we evaluate them.
- D. Culture affects the implementation strategies and how they are _____ through.

How has your organisation's culture shaped your decision-making process?

III. How do you diagnose your organization's culture or prevailing worldview?

A. Cultures can be compared along various constructs.

The nature of reality, truth, _____, space, human nature, activity and relationships.

B. In understanding another worldview the following can be asked

1. What beliefs are strongly held?
2. How do parents/bosses teach children/subordinates to behave?
3. What do people regard as major sins?

4. What do people do in crises?
5. What rituals do people perform?
6. What are the greatest fears that people have?
7. Who are the trend setters?
8. Who are the cultural heroes?
9. What is expressed in the art forms of the people?
10. What aspects of the culture are most resistant to change?
11. What are considered to be words of wisdom?

What are the prevailing ideas and presuppositions in your organisation?

Describe how these patterns of thought have influenced your organization (negatively or positively)

The worldviews that we all hold, will always have an impact on how we lead. If we want to change our approach to leadership we have to come to a place of changing our worldviews. Leadership development can therefore, never be divorced from a fundamental challenging of worldviews.

IV. What are the seven basic _____ of life?

As a worldview is the overall way we view the world, every worldview will answer the seven basic questions of life.

A. God and the universe – What is reality?

Is the world theistic or atheistic? (spiritual or material)

1. Monotheism – there is one God.
2. Pantheism – God is in everything.
3. Polytheism – there are many gods.
4. Atheism – there is no god.

One's answer to this question has major consequences.

B. Knowing – What is _____?

1. How do we know?
 - a. Revelation
 - b. Reason

- c. Experience
2. What are some different bases for what counts as true?
 - a. Pure dogma: based on tradition, it has always been this way.
 - b. Revealed dogma: wisdom based on trust in the authority of wise men, formal leaders, prophets, or kings.
 - c. Truth derived by a “rational-legal” process
 - d. Truth as that which survives conflict and debate
 - e. Truth as that which works: let’s try it and test it
 - f. Truth as established by scientific method, borders on pure dogma.
 3. What is information?

To test for reality a group must determine what is information.

Self check question

What counts as true in your organization?

C. Self – What is _____?

Who am I?

1. Special creation created in the image of God
2. Non-special creation
3. Random evolutionary animal

D. _____ – What is society?

How do people live together?

1. Individualism
2. Inter-dependent community (the one and the many)
3. Communalism

E. Time – How do we measure the procession of life?

Is life directed and meaningful?

1. _____ or random
2. Linear or cyclical
3. Optimistic or pessimistic
4. Eternal or temporal

F. Values – What is good?

What is of ultimate value? Where do we get morality and ethics (values) from?

1. God
2. Man
3. Matter

G. Destiny – How will my life and the world end?

Where are things going?

1. Kingdom of God
2. Kingdom of god/gods
3. Kingdom of earth
4. Annihilation

“Without a Biblical Worldview, all the great teaching goes in one ear and out the other. There are no intellectual pegs...in the mind of the individual to hang these truths on. So they just pass through. They don’t stick. They don’t make a difference.” –George Barna

“Historic Christianity saw life in its totality and not in fragments. It was a total worldview.”
–John Whitehead, *The End of Man*

V. What are some of the major problems in Africa?

[Please put these pictures onto power-points]

What comes to mind when you see these pictures?

1. Some of the problems of the ‘the African Crisis’:
 - Massive foreign debt
 - Corruption
 - Inflation
 - Negative growth rates
 - A collapse of infrastructure
 - Extortion
 - Disinvestment
 - AIDS, cholera, malaria
 - Coups and military dictators
 - One party police states
 - Violent city crime
 - Malnutrition
 - Deforestation and desertification
 - Genocide
 - Tribal conflict and civil wars
 - Polygamy

- Ancestralism, witchcraft, and human sacrifice.
- Cannibalism
- Slavery

VI. Africa has not embraced her full _____

“When I look around the continent I see few people excelling greatly. Not because they have no area of competence BUT because they specialise in what they are average in. So we relate to them accordingly and reinforce their mediocrity.” Paul Nyamuda

“With a Biblical Christian Worldview, Africa would lead the world.” (Francis Schaeffer)

“Africa is not poor, Africans are poor!” (Dr. Elijah Maswanganyi)

VII. The Church in Africa has focused on _____ and not discipleship.

“The church in Africa is good at prayer, evangelism, and signs and wonders – the foundation for revival, but weak in discipleship, leadership and biblical worldview - the foundation for reformation. We must have both the fire of revival and the light of reformation.” Gareth Lowe

VII. The Church has not always been relevant.

C. S. Lewis said, ‘In nothing has the church so lost her hold on reality as in her failure to understand and respect the secular vocation. She has allowed work and religion to become separate departments and is astonished to find that as a result, the secular work of the world is turned to purely destructive and selfish ends and that the greater part of the world’s intelligent workers have become irreligious or at least uninterested in religion. But is it so astonishing? How can anyone remain interested in a religion which seems to have no concern with nine tenths of life?’

Acknowledgements

Ed Silvano. “Anointed for Business.” 2002

David Oliver and James Thwaites. “The Church that Works.” 2001

James Thwaites. “The Church beyond the Congregation.” 1999

Mark Greene. “The Great 9 to 5 Opportunity.” Decision Magazine – June 2003

Gareth Lowe. “Paper on Understanding Worldviews.”