

Becoming What We Love: Putting the Christian Worldview Into Practice

Men's Breakfast
January 6, 2018

Every Worldview has Four Components

1. A view of reality (What is real?)
2. A view of humanity (Who am I/who are we?)
3. A view of the human predicament (What's wrong?)
4. A solution to the predicament, given our view of reality and humanity (what's the solution?)



The Christian Worldview

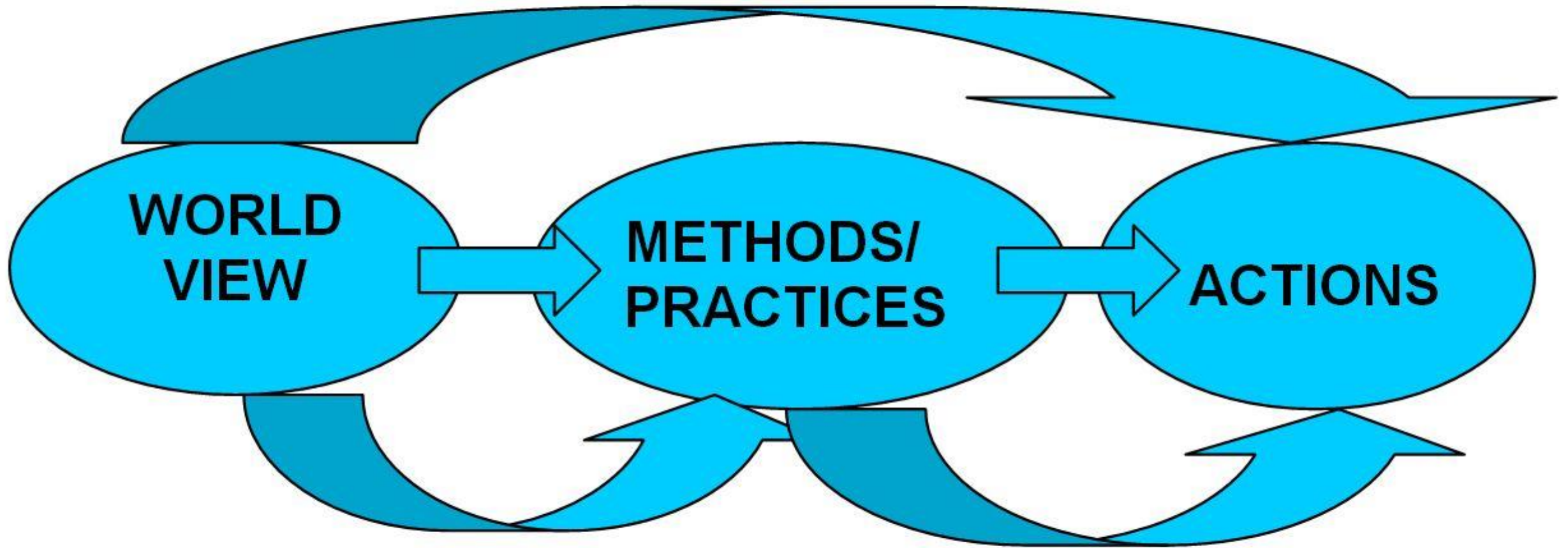


1. What's real? *We are in the reality that God has created.*
2. Who are we? *We are God's creatures; we are NOT God.*
3. What's wrong? *Our will is inverted, turned away from God to toward ourselves.*
4. What's the solution? *God's Grace alone, in Jesus Christ, can turn our will back to God.*

The Christian Worldview(summary of Dave Brown)

- God exists; he is Invisible, infinite and personal; ultimate Sovereign
 - World is God's creation; no secular vs. sacred... all belongs to God
- Human beings are made in God's image (imago dei)
- Humanity is fallen; world is corrupted & twisted by rebellion/sin
- Christ is God in the flesh and has accomplished redemption/rescue for us by his defeat of sin and death in his life, death and resurrection.
- Christ will come again in judgment; no one get's away with anything
- God has communicated himself in Scripture and revealed himself in the divine order.
- Christian worldview sets us apart from every other one .
 - Christians are called to live for others (and die to self).

Our Worldview Influences the Actions We Take



Methods are the Bridge Between View and Actions

Top New Year's Resolutions

- Lose weight (eat right)
- Enjoy life to the fullest
- Spend less money; save more
- Spend more time with family & friends
- Get organized
- Learn something new
- Travel more
- Break your smartphone addiction
- Eat at home more
- Drink less alcohol
- Stop smoking
- Reduce stress
- Sleep more
- Floss regularly
- Exercise more



**YOUR LIFE IS A BLENDING OF THE CHOICES YOU MAKE.
TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE, IMPROVE HOW YOU MAKE CHOICES.
TAKE TIME FOR CONSCIOUS DECISIONS BASED ON GOOD VALUES,
LONGTERM RESULTS, LOVING MOTIVES & STAYING TRUE TO YOUR HEART.**

**Culture eats strategy
for breakfast.**

- Peter Drucker

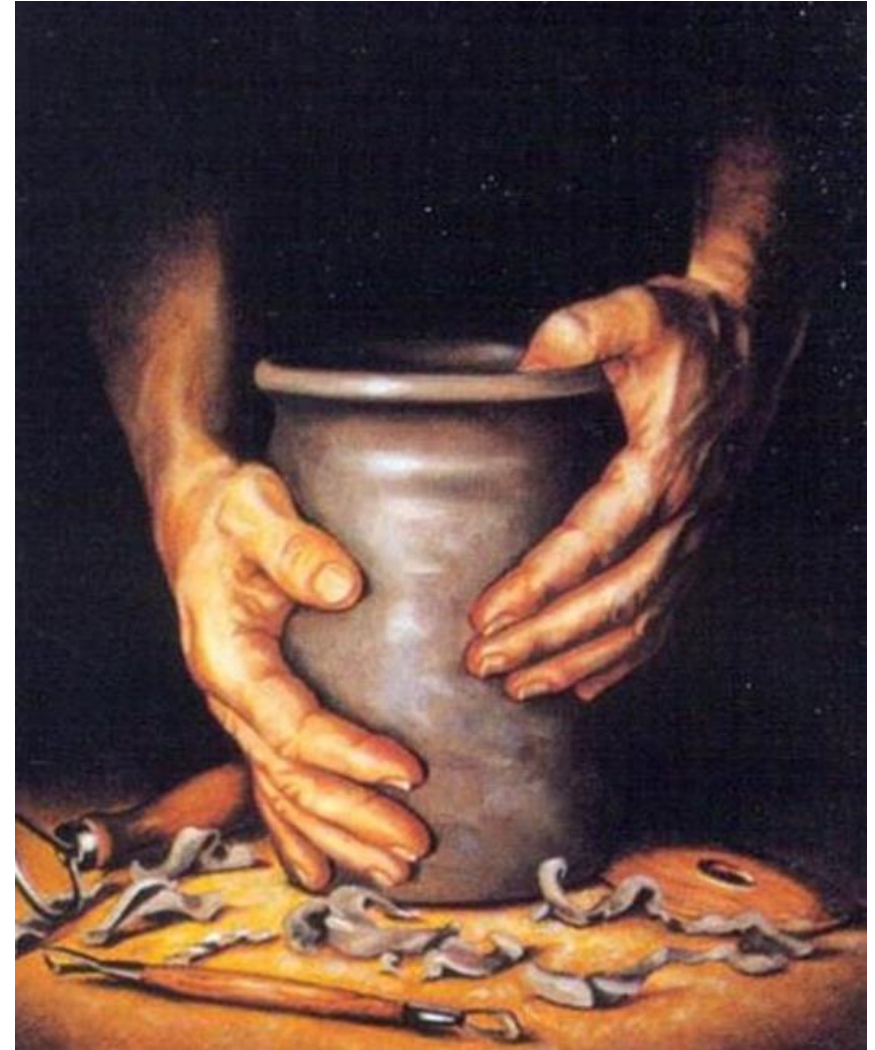
The “Informational” Model of Change



Where should you start your change?

Spiritual Formation Happens

- We are constantly being shaped and formed by myriad forces.
- God wants to shape and form us in ways that restore us to his purposes in creation.
 - To undo the effects of sin...



Isaiah 64:8

O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our
potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Jeremiah 18:6

Just like the clay in the potter's
hand, so are you in my hand, O
house of Israel.

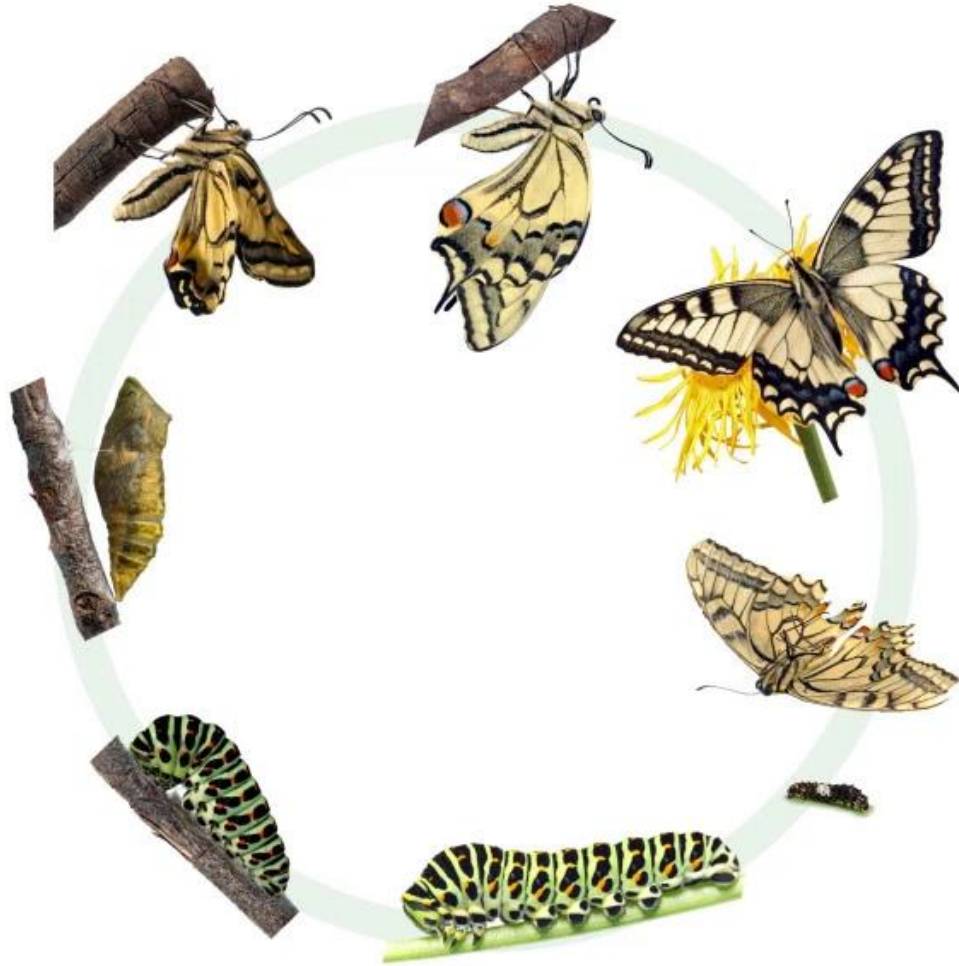
Potter and Clay Video

- Viewable here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKiGKtMW3Jw>

Transformation: Becoming Something Different



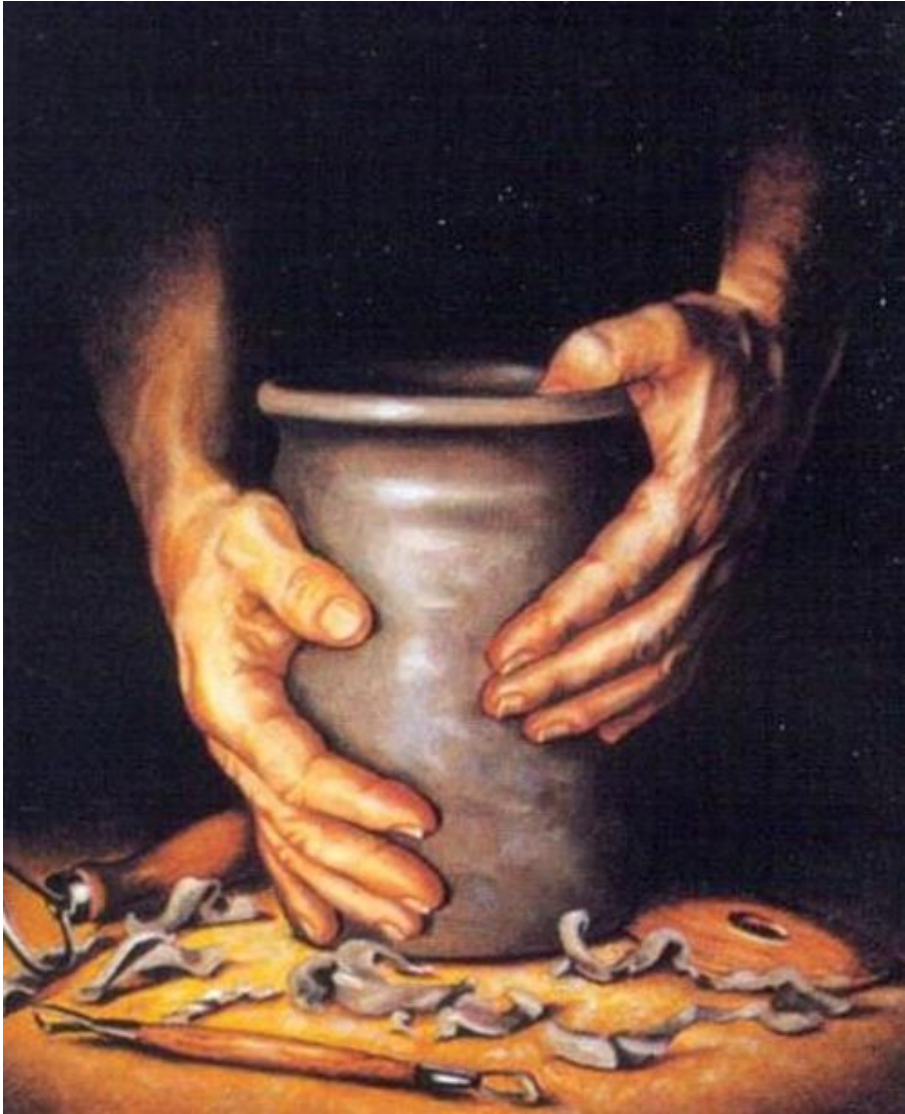
Transformation: Becoming Something Different



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed... so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

— Romans 12:2

Spiritual Formation Happens



- The way we spend our time—living our lives each day in the surrounding culture—shapes our souls.
- Christian spiritual formation is the process of being shaped by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ, filled with love for God and the world.

Table Conversation

- What are the forces that shape your (spiritual) life?
 - Who are what is/are the potter(s) in your life that shape and form you?
- What can you do to allow the Spirit of God to be the primary shaping force in your life and your family's?

Christian Discipleship is formative

- Should be a “formative” project and not just an “informative” project.
- The Christian life is even more about what/who we *love* than it is about what we *know*.
 - We learn to desire the Kingdom of God.
 - Knowing God is different than knowing *about* God.

Seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

– Matthew 6:33

Love the Lord with all your hear, soul, strength and mind.

–Luke 10:27

What We Love Drives How We Live

- What we love becomes what we worship.

“Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your god.”

– Martin Luther



What We Love Drives How We Live

- “Curate” your heart.

“Above all else,
guard your heart,
for everything you do
flows from it.” (Prov. 4:23)



What We Love Drives How We Live

- Curate your heart. How?
 - 1) Examine what you love.
 - 2) Get rid of the idols.
 - 3) Replace them with a love for God. . .



We Might not Love what We Think

- What do you want?
 - The first and fundamental question of the Christian life
- The Russian film, “Stalker” features a dreaded region called ‘The Zone’.
- In ‘The Room’ you get your heart’s desire



We Become What we love

Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases.⁴**Their** idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.⁵They have mouths, but **do not speak**; eyes, but **do not see**.⁶They have ears, but **do not hear**; noses, but **do not smell**.⁷They have hands, but **do not feel**; feet, but **do not walk**; they **make no sound** in their throats.⁸*Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them.*—Psalm 115:3-8

Examine What You Love

- *What's in the water?*
- *Where did this love come from?*
- How does this love define happiness?
- What does this love want me to believe about myself?
- How does this love promise redemption?
- How does this love shape relationships?
- Am I (consciously or unconsciously) participating in a “liturgy” that reinforces this love?



Changing What I Love

- How do I CHANGE what I love??
 - Imitation
 - Practice:
Love is a *habit*.
Be a *practicing* Christian.



Table Conversation

- What I love is measured by
 1. How I spend my (discretionary) time
 2. What I give my life to the most (that is what I 'worship').
 - Agree or disagree? Why?
- I am what I love.
 - If this is true, who are you? (Who are your children/grandchildren?)
 - Do I actually love what I think I love?
- How do we truly change to conform our lives to Christ?
 - What does it mean in our lives to seek God's Kingdom first?
- How do we nurture that kind of transformation in our children?
 - How do we teach our kids to love God more than all the other things in this life?