

Public Theology from Colson Courses – John Stonestreet (Worksheet by Daniel Klem)

Lesson 1: Four Chapters of One Story

What is meant by “worldview”? How we each _____ the world around us.

What is theology? How we _____ God. (Literally = “god study”)

[Watch Lesson 1]

We must avoid getting L_____ in the chaos of the moment.

It helps to focus on the Bible.

- The Bible is one S_____ that tells stories: The Big S_____ of History in four chapters:

1. C_____
2. F_____
3. R_____
4. R_____

- We need all four chapters:

○ C_____:

- G_____ is the Creator
- The world is G_____ to us, it is not an A_____.
- The world has a D_____ : It is a particular way.
 - The world was made G_____.
 - The world (M_____) is not bad.
- Humans were made in G_____ I_____
- C_____ is good, but we must help make and keep it good.

○ F_____:

- Every worldview sees the problem: The world is N_____ the way it’s supposed to be.
- Problems in the world are not because of “T_____” – us vs. them.
- The fundamental problem with the world is U_____ : human S_____.
 - Sin is the cause of A_____ the problems.
- Advancement in technology will not S_____ us or make us more M_____.

○ R_____:

- God’s answer to a broken world: He C_____ to S_____ sinners.
 - We are A_____ sinners.
- If redemption is available for us, redemption and improvement is P_____.
 - God came to F_____ it Himself

○ R_____:

- History is headed toward a R_____ Creation
 - If it was all an A_____, we’re just one M_____ from ending it all.
 - We won’t merely be S_____ on clouds, but _____ will be made new.
- There is H_____.

How does understanding the overall story of the Bible affect our worldview – how we see the world?

(2 Corinthians 5)

What would you like more understanding on?

Lesson 2: Four Relationships That Define Us

Morality has been shifting, changing questions of what is R and W.

This change is a _____ of a deeper change in the question: What does it mean to be _____?

- Our I should be rooted in overall biblical story:
 - We are made in the I of G
 - The identity of God includes the T: F, S, and H S
 - His very identity is grounded in R – eternally relational.
 - To understand our relationships means to know how God made us relational.
- We are relational in four ways:
 - U:
 - We must have relationship with G.
 - God is H than we are. (Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - This gives us a fixed R point O of ourselves.
 - He has to E apart from us, and we only exist because He exists.
 - Human N is thus based on His nature and being made in His image.
 - It is like a C pointing us toward our true I, not what we feel.
 - I:
 - Unlike other living things, we have an A of ourselves.
 - We W at why we exist.
 - O:
 - How we I with other image bearers.
 - F
 - C (Coworkers, Schools, etc.)
 - F
 - N
 - These relationships help us live out our P: the D mandate (Genesis 1:28)
 - D:
 - We have a relationship with the C.
 - Humans are to spread the G (Good work and relationship with God: Paradise.)
 - Humans are not P.
 - We have a purpose to C for God's Creation.
- The F ruined these relationships.
 - We all H from God and each other.
 - We all feel S, especially before God.
 - We F against each other.
 - Filling and subduing is H because of our corruption. (Genesis 3:17-19)
- The R fixes A these relationships.
 - We can get back to what He created us for: To know Him and enjoy Him and each other.
 - This all leads to the R of this fallen world.

Our greatest relationship is with G, for all the other relationships are restored and thrive from there.
(Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:14-17)

What are areas we see need for redemption and restoration? What are fixes the world offers (if any), and what do you think is the Christian response?

Lesson 3: Four Truths We Can Hold To

Philippians is a book of J_____ written from P_____.

1 Peter is a book of H_____ written amidst P_____.

Peter does not mean "hope" as in wishful thinking but C_____.

- There are four truths to anchor our hope:
 - Christ is R_____
 - The crucifixion and resurrection are historical facts.
 - This is the hope that D_____ the People of Christ.
 - Christ is L_____
 - Not merely Lord of my L_____.
 - It means Jesus is Ruler of the whole W_____.
 - He is S_____ over every part of R_____.
 - Christ will M_____ all things N_____
 - He will not merely start over, He is R_____ what is here through us.
 - It is never all over or done until Christ R_____! We have not L_____!
 - Christ is in this T_____ and P_____
 - God C_____ all things, and He has P_____ it all.
 - God is in C_____! (Sovereign and Omnipotent – All-powerful)

How does knowing Christ is risen give us hope? (1 Corinthians 15:1-26)

How does knowing Christ is Lord give us hope?

How does knowing God has planned everything and will renew all things give us hope?

Lesson 4: Four Questions

How do we A _____ what we know about the Christian Worldview?

It is the job of A _____ Christians to interact with the world.

What does this interaction look like?

- We need to ask four questions:
 - What is G _____?
 - We can C _____, P _____, and P _____ the good
 - Sermons, good acts, good music.
 - Every person has V _____. (Goodness based on God's image.)
 - What is M _____?
 - What can we I _____ or C _____ to join in our Creator's work?
 - Our brokenness affects families, society, and justice. We should be making society better. How?
 - We remind people of human D _____.
 - We refuse to treat people like O _____, instead as P _____.
 - What is E _____?
 - What should we O _____ and R _____.
 - Sometimes we must say N _____: to I _____ and socially N _____ things.
 - Don't let what you C _____ do stop you from what you C _____ do.
 - What is B _____ that can be R _____?
 - The Gospel is not a D _____ story from Creation but how God F _____ Creation.
 - God works in and through us to restore relationships, renew societies, and redeem lost people.
 - How can He use us?
 - We have been C _____ to join His work of redemption as His redeemed.

Think about how the Early Church grew: through Christians rescuing unwanted girls, forcing many men to go to the Church to find wives. What is something we can do in our own circles and communities to make something good?

What is something we can add to our world? What thing is missing or is broken that needs to be replaced or restored? (Being willing to listen to someone, cry with someone, be a friend. Adopt? Volunteer?)

What can we help stop or even stand up for that is evil or not as good as it could be? How can we love people better or help them feel loved?

Read Isaiah 58. What similarities do you see compared with this lesson?

Read Romans 12:9-21. Discuss the list of how a Christian should live.

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Lesson 1: Four Chapters of One Story

What is meant by “worldview”? How we each See/View/Understand the world around us.

What is theology? How we See/View/Understand God. (Literally = “god study”)

[Watch Lesson 1]

We must avoid getting Lost in the chaos of the moment.

It helps to focus on the Bible.

- The Bible is one Story that tells stories: The Big Story of History in four chapters:
 - 5. Creation
 - 6. Fall
 - 7. Redemption
 - 8. Restoration
- We need all four chapters:
 - Creation:
 - God is the Creator
 - The world is Given to us, it is not an Accident
 - The world has a Design: It is a particular way
 - The world was made Good
 - The world (Matter) is not bad.
 - Humans were made in God’s Image
 - Culture is good, but we must help make and keep it good.
 - Fall:
 - Every worldview sees the problem: The world is Not the way it’s supposed to be.
 - Problems in the world are not because of “Them” – us vs. them
 - The fundamental problem with the world is Us: human Sin
 - Sin is the cause of All the problems
 - Advancement in technology will not Save us or make us more Moral
 - Redemption:
 - God’s answer to a broken world: He Came to Save sinners
 - We are All sinners
 - If redemption is available for us, redemption and improvement is Possible
 - God came to Fix it Himself
 - Restoration
 - History is headed toward a Restored Creation
 - If it was all an Accident, we’re just one Mistake from ending it all.
 - We won’t merely be Sitting on clouds, but All things will be made new
 - There is Hope

How does understanding the overall story of the Bible affect our worldview – how we see the world?
(2 Corinthians 5)

What would you like more understanding on?

Lesson 2: Four Relationships That Define Us

Morality has been shifting, changing questions of what is Right and Wrong,

This change is a Fruit/Symptom of a deeper change in the question: What does it mean to be Human?

- Our Identity should be rooted in overall biblical story:
 - We are made in the Image of God
 - The identity of God includes the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - His very identity is grounded in Relationship – eternally relational.
 - To understand our relationships means to know how God made us relational.
- We are relational in four ways:
 - Upward:
 - We must have relationship with God
 - God is Higher than we are. (Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - This gives us a fixed Reference point Outside of ourselves.
 - He has to Exist apart from us, and we only exist because He exists.
 - Human Nature is thus based on His nature and being made in His image.
 - It is like a Compass pointing us toward our true Identity, not what we feel.
 - Inward:
 - Unlike other living things, we have an Awareness of ourselves.
 - We Wonder at why we exist.
 - Outward:
 - How we Interact with other image bearers.
 - Family
 - Friends
 - Community (Coworkers, Schools, etc.)
 - Nation
 - These relationships help us live out our Purpose: the Dominion mandate (Genesis 1:28)
 - Downward:
 - We have a relationship with the Creation.
 - Humans are to spread the Garden (Good work and relationship with God: Paradise.)
 - Humans are not Parasites.
 - We have a purpose to Care for God's Creation.
- The Fall ruined these relationships.
 - We all Hide from God and each other.
 - We all feel Shame, especially before God.
 - We Fight against each other
 - Filling and subduing is Hard because of our corruption. (Genesis 3:17-19)
- The Redemption fixes All these relationships.
 - We can get back to what He created us for: To know Him and enjoy Him and each other.
 - This all leads to the Restoration of this fallen world.

Our greatest relationship is with God, for all the other relationships are restored and thrive from there. (Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 6:14-17)

What are areas we see need for redemption and restoration? What are fixes the world offers (if any), and what do you think is the Christian response?

How does a broken inward relationship affect our identity?

Lesson 3: Four Truths We Can Hold To

Philippians is a book of Joy written from Prison.

1 Peter is a book of Hope written amidst Persecution.

Peter does not mean “hope” as in wishful thinking but Certainty.

- There are four truths to anchor our hope:
 - Christ is Risen
 - The crucifixion and resurrection are historical facts.
 - This is the hope that Defines the People of Christ.
 - Christ is Lord
 - Not merely Lord of my Life.
 - It means Jesus is Ruler of the whole World.
 - He is Sovereign over every part of Reality
 - Christ will Make all things New
 - He will not merely start over, He is Renewing what is here through us.
 - It is never all over or done until Christ Returns! We have not Lost!
 - Christ is in this Time & Place
 - God Created all things, and He has Planned it all.
 - God is in Control! (Sovereign and Omnipotent – All-powerful)

How does knowing Christ is risen give us hope? (1 Corinthians 15:1-26)

How does knowing Christ is Lord give us hope?

How does knowing God has planned everything and will renew all things give us hope?

Lesson 4: Four Questions

How do we Apply what we know about the Christian Worldview?

It is the job of All Christians to interact with the world.

What does this interaction look like?

- We need to ask four questions:
 - What is Good?
 - We can Celebrate, Protect, and Promote the good
 - Sermons, good acts, good music.
 - Every person has Value. (Goodness based on God's image.)
 - What is Missing?
 - What can we Innovate or Create to join in our Creator's work?
 - Our brokenness affects families, society, and justice. We should be making society better. How?
 - We remind people of human Dignity.
 - We refuse to treat people like Objects, instead as Persons.
 - What is Evil?
 - What should we Oppose and Resist
 - Sometimes we must say No: to Injustice and socially Normal things.
 - Don't let what you Can't do stop you from what you Can do.
 - What is Broken that can be Restored?
 - The Gospel is not a Different story from Creation but how God Fixes Creation.
 - God works in and through us to restore relationships, renew societies, and redeem lost people.
 - How can He use us?
 - We have been Called to join His work of redemption as His redeemed.

Think about how the Early Church grew: through Christians rescuing unwanted girls, forcing many men to go to the Church to find wives. What is something we can do in our own circles and communities to make something good?

What is something we can add to our world? What thing is missing or is broken that needs to be replaced or restored? (Being willing to listen to someone, cry with someone, be a friend. Adopt? Volunteer?)

What can we help stop or even stand up for that is evil or not as good as it could be? How can we love people better or help them feel loved?

Read Isaiah 58. What similarities do you see compared with this lesson?

Read Romans 12:9-21. Discuss the list of how a Christian should live.