

Dr. Brad Strait, Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church
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Major Sources: Dan May, Carl Truman, Phillip Graham, J.F. Baldwin, Paul Chappell, Phillip Ryken, R.C. Sproul, C.S. Lewis

*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand. Psalm 40:2*

I. Looking at Worldviews: the ways a person makes sense of life and the world.

In Review

Week 1: Where does Meaning come from? For Christians, it comes from God the Creator.

Week 2: What determines Truth? For Christians, it comes from the Bible and Jesus.

Week 3: Where are our Origins? For Christians, we believe God created life and has a plan for our world. In detail...

Outward Source

- There is a Source of meaning and order in the world, and we discover it and align with its purpose. (Aristotle, Aquinas, Einstein, Plato, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, science)
- There is a source of Truth in the world, and we seek to align our lives with this reality.
- There is a God who created the universe, including the Earth, with all its intricacies and order.

Inward Source

- The world is raw material out of which we each create our own meaning and purpose. (Nietzsche, Marx, atheism, post-modernism, individualism, communism)
- There is no objective truth in the world, and so each person must create our own truth and reality.
- The universe, its physical laws, and all life on Earth came into being accidentally.

Key questions for Week 5: Identity

- **Who am I?**
- **Why don't I feel like I am OK, or significant?**
- **How do I become MORE?**

The world tells us two things at once, both lies:

#1 You are BROKEN and insignificant!

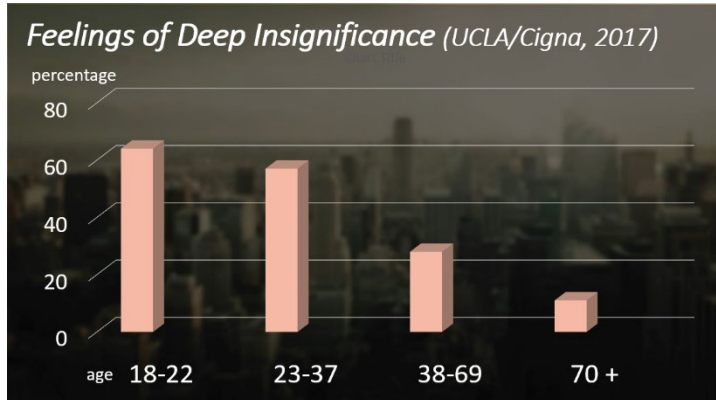
#2 But YOU can save yourself and make yourself MORE!



II. The World's Perspective

#1: You are broken and insignificant.

Listen to your own life! You are broken and insignificant. You are NOT a superhero.



- Insignificant because we live in a crazy, painful world
- Insignificant because your family is broken
- Insignificant because YOU ARE LACKING in a social comparison culture
- Insignificant because of media and celebrity overload
- Insignificant because there is so much cultural complexity, and choices are overwhelming
- Insignificant because you feel alone and abandoned. There is no God out there to help you. You've got to figure out all of life.

#2 You can fix your own brokenness. You can make yourself significant. You must save yourself.

How?????

Add more "spiritual" effort!

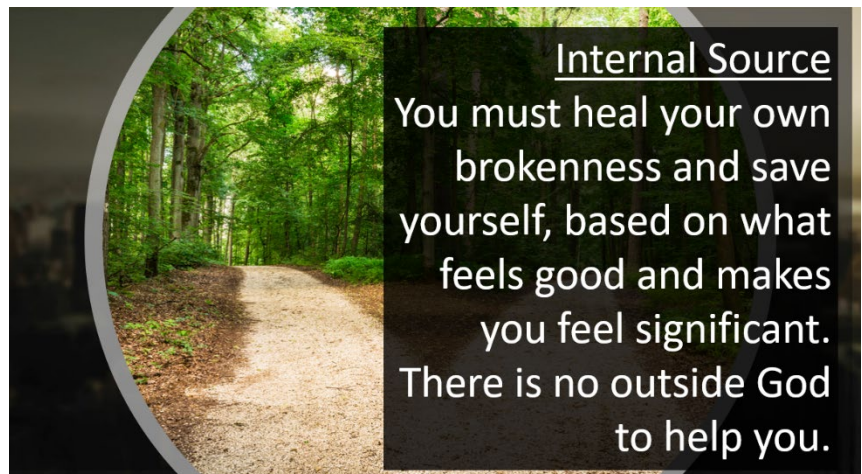
Gain more power!

Make more money!

Buy more things!

Seek pleasure and be free with your sexual life!

Change your identity! Be something new!



Do whatever it takes! Lie, cheat, steal, distort, run, fight—if it takes away the pain.

Romans 1:28 (NIV) ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved

(worthless, empty, undisciplined, broken) mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

The World's view—Identity comes from an Internal Source (Me)

Men and women are the same, for we all exist on a gender fluid spectrum. Choose what you want to be, and it is reality.

Some Examples:

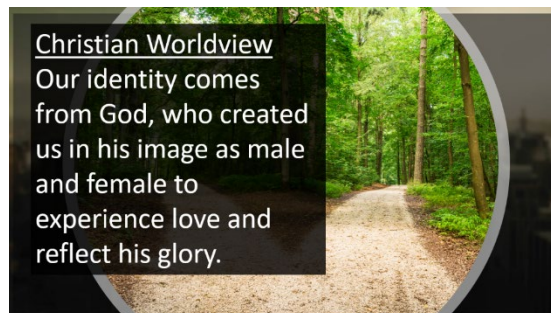
“[Social Researchers] Hyde and her colleagues hope that people use the consistent evidence that males and females are basically alike to alleviate misunderstanding and correct unequal treatment. Hyde is far from alone in her observation that the clear misrepresentation of sex differences, given the lack of evidence, harms men and women of all ages.” - Moving Past Myth, Psychology Today

“Ultimately, the concepts of gender and sex are socially constructed. This means that we as a society assign sex and gender to people based on socially agreed-upon characteristics...When trans people are understood to be the sex they were assigned at birth — and not the sex they truly are — it can have a significant impact on their physical, mental, and emotional health.” - HealthLine MD

In response:

“Modern culture has tried to redefine sexuality as a personal right to be exercised any way an individual wishes. Sexual behavior is considered a personal choice, akin to the decision of whether to buy a house or rent a condo. At the same time, popular opinion has all but removed the word sin from our culture’s vocabulary. The only sexual expression considered “wrong” is what is deemed distasteful to the definer. However, social acceptability varies so greatly that even the vilest of acts would be considered justified by many. So, before we can determine why sexual sin is such a big deal, we have to define sexual sin. Fortunately, man has never been given the privilege of defining sin. The One who created sexuality also has the right to set the boundaries for it, and the Bible is clear about the guidelines.” – Got Questions, What makes sexual sin such a big deal?

III. Christian Worldview: Humans are created in two sexes so that they may procreate build families.



Genesis 1:27-28 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number...”

Jesus buys this—he repeats it and refers to two sexes repeatedly in this discussion of God’s will.

Matthew 19:4-6 ⁴ “Haven’t you read,” Jesus replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Christian Worldview: God made us male and female to create families. All sexuality outside a marriage which is between a man and a women is sinful and does not glorify God.

Our behavior shows our true worldview. The Bible repeatedly speaks against sexual sin in many places, using many different words. These sexual sins include adultery, pornography, premarital sex, incest, homosexuality, fornication, lust, and even imagining sex with someone you are not married to (Matt. 5:27-28).

A few biblical examples:

For example, in Exodus 20 two of the Ten commandments speak against sexual sin: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” And “Thou shall not covet your neighbor’s...wife.”

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

2 Corinthians 12:21 I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

Christian Worldview: We have to take sexual sin and temptations seriously!

Romans 6:12-14 (Message) ¹² That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. ¹³ Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time — remember, you've been raised from the dead! — into God's way of doing things. ¹⁴ Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

Yes, we are all broken, but we are still deeply significant to God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (The Message)

¹ It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. ² You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. ³ We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat.

Ephesians 2:3-6 (The Message) It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. ⁴ Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, ⁵ he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on



We are all broken. None of us knows the dishwasher manual enough.

his own, with no help from us! ⁶ Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

Don't get too proud on proper loading skills! It is Jesus who gets us clean!

Ephesians 2:7-9 (The

Message) ⁷ Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! ⁹ We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing!

Christian Worldview: Everyone—Everyone—is broken yet significant to God

Our God created us, loves us, and redeems us, and so we find our identity and fulfillment in Him. God is not working to condemn the world, but to rescue people from their futile, broken ways. He lets us help.

Stay Humble, for we all required an outside God to save us from our junk and inclinations.

Ephesians 2:10 (The Message) ¹⁰ No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.



What we Can't Do: Make checking others for sin a priority or a barrier to loving relationships.

Rude: "Excuse me. Before we eat, can I take a look at how you load your dishwasher?"

Christian Worldview: Everyone needs to be loved, forgiven, and have a chance for reconciliation with the God who made them!

John 3:16 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the

world through him.

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Acts 7:59-60 Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Jesus in Mark 11:25 "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christian Worldview: Model Grace and Truth

God is not working to condemn the world, but to rescue people from their futile, broken ways. He lets us help.