

CHANGING PERSPECTIVE: CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE

1. What is perspective?
A mental view or prospect. A particular way of viewing things that depends on one's knowledge, experience and personality.¹
2. Why is perspective important?
 - a. Perspective informs us about a situation or object either in an accurate/true way, or an inaccurate/false way.
 - i. Example: Fisheye lens or bent mirror.
 - b. Perspective shapes our theology and therefore our view of God.
 - c. Perspective causes us to pursue problem solving with truth or error.
3. How is perspective shaped?
 - a. Experience. This shapes our habit of thought and conclusion.
 - b. Attitude. This shapes our positive or negative view of the situation.
 - c. Education. This shapes and forms the lens that we observe the situation through.
 - d. Culture. This presses us to conform to a popular worldview.
 - i. All the above can either be true or false regarding our perspective.
 - e. Bible. An accurate reading and understanding of a biblical perspective will shape our perspective God ward.
4. Spiritual influences that shape our perspective.
 - a. The influence of the world.
 - i. Psychological perspective
 - ii. Woke perspective
 - iii. Popular medical/scientific perspective
 - iv. Etc.
 - b. The influence of the flesh.
 - i. Inconvenience
 - ii. Uncomfortable
 - iii. Self-sacrifice
 - iv. Etc.

¹Cambridge Dictionary, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/perspective>, (Accessed 02/10/2023) Adapted

- c. The influence of the Devil.
 - i. Promoting anything but God's way.
 - ii. The lust of the eyes.
 - iii. The lust of the flesh.
 - iv. The pride of life.

5. The remedy leading to proper perspective.
 - a. Perspective is mental so be renewed and transformed through forming our perspective by biblical thinking.
 - i. Romans 12:2
 - ii. Ephesians 4:22-24
 - b. Become intentional in the way we think and form our perspective.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - c. Begin forming our perspective from gratitude.
 - i. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - d. Let the knowledge of God's presence and work in you shape your perspective with joy.
 - i. James 1:2-4
 - ii. Romans 8:28-30
 - iii. Philippians 1:6
 - e. Work toward an eternal perspective.
 - i. Romans 8:16-18
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
 - f. Why an eternal perspective?
 - i. It takes our attention away from the immediate issue and puts our attention where it should be.
 - ii. Our perspective affects the way we interpret life and that affects the way we live.
 - g. Examples of perspective setting Bible texts.
 - i. Colossians 3:1-15
 - ii. 1 Peter 4:7-11
 - iii. Matthew 28:18-20

Our biblical focus

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Our biblical perspective

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Our biblical life corrections based on our adjusted focus and perspective

*Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. **Colossians 3:1-15***