

Dr. Gary Meadors, Knowing God's Will,

Session 7, What is a Worldview

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Well, here we are again, and I hope you're here and you've been through all the lectures. Congratulations, that's quite a task to listen to a talking head for so long. I do hope that my slides and notes Help to make that a little more enjoyable Well, we're coming to GM 7.

It's easy to keep track of things like these titles; in fact, in the table of contents, they are called seven and eight. But we will separate them into seven and eight, and a lot of this is going to be a little deja vu Because I've talked to you so much about worldview and values but this time we're going to do a little more probing a little more explaining and so repetition again is the key to learning and The next two lectures will do that for you Answering the question, what is a worldview? What are values? How do they work? Where do they come from? How do you apply them? Well, that's what we want to that's what we want to probe here What was the next time Howard probably with this with this lecture? Okay, If you are sure you're ready to go to lecture seven, knowing God's will to transform the mind into a biblical worldview and Values system, this lecture is going to focus on worldview. You can't talk about one without sometimes talking about the other, but this is supposed to look more at worldview now because it's a worldview. We come back to this issue when we say knowing God's will; we're immediately in the category of epistemology. This technology has to do with the source's nature and validity of knowledge.

We come to the Bible, particularly in this lecture on this score now. We've been talking about the biblical story over and over and over, and I think this is so important. That's right. This could be your paradigm for witnessing to people and sharing your faith There's an eternal God who entered time by creating the world and Adam and Eve were there and everything was great But they failed In terms of being obedient to God and the fall happened the fall becomes the major key in the rest of human history and Sets the fall God has been about Redeeming a people for his name some people of the older writers use the metaphor that God is the hound of heaven He's hounding people to come to him and then eventually the consummation So, you know the biblical story by now You should be able to draw that from memory if we were giving you an exam and explain it the dilemma of knowing God That's another one.

That's a deja vu, isn't it? We have the same model of God: the fall, the distortion as a result of the fall, and We're recipients. Not only is the world distorted physically, but we are also distorted in our minds. There's a noetic effect of the fall that theologians

talk about. So, humanity is not able to know God Because of the fall distortion. We need help, and you know again that help comes by God providing us his word, as we've seen from First Corinthians chapter 2 to some extent, and we'll come back to that all right, so the biblical story and the results of the fall of that story are why we need Romans 12:1 and 2 to be so dominant be transformed We are we are sinners at birth We are prone to go against God.

We do not naturally know God. We do not naturally obey God Conversion, as we use that term, is Submitting to Jesus as our Savior, That he is the culmination of God's plan of redemption, and that in him we have life eternal and as a reason and as a result of that there is this Metaphor was Nicodemus at John 3 be born again And even Nicodemus was confused God Jesus actually expected him to understand more it seems but the fact is he was confused How can I go back into my mother's womb? Well, being born again is more of me as an individual, and this word we use is conversion, Whereby God does a miracle that we really can't explain, but it's a fact, and we know it post facto after it's over where he comes into our life and he changes us in a basic way and then we begin a life of change and At the core of that life of change is Romans 12:1 and 2 So it requires it to create a worldview and then the values that come from our worldview. All right now, we know this first about the three foundational assumptions in relation to this issue of having a biblical worldview. Well, the first assumption is According to the biblical narrative, they were created in the image of God. Oh, in Genesis 1 and 2, there are all kinds of places, even in James, where The image of God comes up in the likeness being in the image and likeness of God.

And we have to ask the question. What does it mean to be? In the image of God now, many times we talk about how God is a thinking, feeling, choosing to be, and he created us to reflect him in that regard. That's good. We can get a little deeper than that. I think The imago dei Latin for this image of God is used a lot. Mankind is the quote, the visible corporal representative, not representation, so we all know this.

This is common knowledge. We don't look like God. We're not a physical representation of God.

We're a personal and moral Repertory representation. Be holy, for I am holy is a call to demonstrate that we are in the image of God. It's a visible corporal Representation of the invisible God corporal just means in the flesh as it were The whole person is represented. It's hard to parse out the parts.

We use thinking, feeling, choosing, and so forth, and people add to that, but the fact is that we are a total representation of God. We are his reflection on this works, and we are that reflection best when we have Participated in his plan of salvation when we reflect the image of Christ, be conformed to his representation he was the best representative of God on earth, and He was the perfect representative, and as we

come into the family, we become representatives of God, and that's a pretty high calling the whole person. No parsing out of parts is an adequate illustration; you know, it's usable, and I will use it as well in in GM here. Oh, I gave you another handout by a fellow named Clint who wrote an article in "What does it mean to be an image of God?" It's not a simple article.

You can look it up. You can get that through Google Scholar. I've mentioned this to you before. Google's nice, but if you really want to do research, it's Google Scholar Calm, and you can bring up articles like this and many others On Nixon. Still, I think Klein's article was very useful, and I've given you The abstract of that in your notes, even though I haven't can't give you the whole article. Hence, According to clients the image of God in man It is It's an advanced article one can learn a great deal about exegesis by reading this. How do you unpack? Implicational evidence about God and can convey it to the question.

What does it mean to be in his image? I'm not going to read that to you. The article is, but you need to read that yourself. we should reflect on how Adam and Eve were in the image of God. How would they have made decisions in the pre-fall Eden? Before they were kicked out of the garden, They were created. Adam was created, and Eve was created. We have the account in Genesis of Adam taking control of the creation. He was that he was dominant in the creation. Someone tells the story that when he was naming Adam the animals, there were Mr. And Mrs. Rabbit, Mr. and Mrs. Giraffe, and whatever happened there. He came to himself, mister, but where's Mrs.? Then God, you know, provided him with a helper that was fitted to him. In other words, she balanced Adam out. Women balance men out. We are both different in many ways, and that diversity gives us God's full representation. If you please, because women are in the image of God as well, you know, so Reflect on how Adam and Eve would have made decisions. Well, God walked in the evening. He gave oral communications to Adam, and We don't have a record of that very much other than what we find in that early part of Genesis, but He gave them adequate information to function. He told him to tend the garden to deal with it. Well, if you read the event narrative carefully, it doesn't appear that weeds yet So forth, so Adam had perfect tomatoes and cucumbers and squash. That's the diet of a Southerner, and so, that's why I am sort of a Southerner in America. Consequently, Adam and Eve made decisions.

God didn't tell him to do it this way. He told him to do it they had to figure that out and They had lots of things but he gave him that one tree and interesting It's not just it's not the tree of feeling It's not the tree of figure me out It's the tree of knowledge of good and evil Now that's symbolic very much within the garden of the fact of the difference between God and man God is the seed of knowledge not a man And I think that the temptation in the garden for Adam and Eve was to be like God It's like that's what the text pretty much says they wanted to usurp Their status into God's stance and of course then the serpent comes to Satan I believe this there's lots of

questions here Satan in the form of the serpent Communicating with them If all the snakes talk in the garden at that time, well, we don't know that's just interesting curiosity that doesn't serve any good purpose But Satan tempted them now, there's a lot of questions. I just bring this to you free. When did Satan fall, and there are proposals about this? There's an old thing called the gap theory, which I think is it's completely Out to see now. Thankfully, it was part of the Schofield reference Bible notes and Earth's earliest ages.

It was a very poor Explanation. It was a creative construct. That should be tossed out.

I think that Satan actually fell at about the same time as Adam and Eve. frankly, because Satan was in rebellion against God, He pushed Adam and Eve into rebellion. Maybe we're not told. Maybe at the very same time that Adam and Eve fell, so did Satan, and they were all kicked up, and Satan, as it were, fell from heaven. He must have been a very high-level cherubim for God, and We're not told much about it. Ezekiel and Isaiah Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 are often drawn in to describe Satan in the garden as who he was. Once again, I've written a thesis on Isaiah 14 Master's thesis, and I wrote papers on Ezekiel 28. Those are the kings of Babylon, and it's not the story about who Satan is. Many people will exercise themselves under that assumption, and I'd like to challenge you to think about that. That it is not an explanation of Satan either before his fall or after. All right. So, the image of God is crucial, and Adam and Eve were created in God's image. They were, at that point, his representatives, and so, therefore, they started acting. They started choosing, and then they made some wrong choices, and that flew through the world into chaos if you please. All right.

Now, a biblical epistemology has three Foundational assumptions. The first one is we're created in God's image and as a result of that we reflect God We are his representatives and he expects us to do a good job and to be thinking feeling choosing creatures, and be able to reason through things all of that is a part of God's creation First of all, the second effect is the fall and we've talked a lot about the fact of the fall Let's talking anymore about it They're kicked out of the Garden of Eden. There's a lot of biblical text here.

I'm not going to read these to you. I ask that you read them and you know the general narrative. It's important to go back and read them. They're kicked out of Eden. The tree is Set off and Protected so that they can't get back to it It doesn't tell us what would happen if they ate another apple or pomegranate or whatever it happened to be But the fact is is that the Bible images that they no longer have access to that thing that God gave them the human condition is one of sin and There's texts from Genesis to Revelation about that and even Romans reflects on from the beginning death reigned from Adam to Moses Death is a big testimony to the fact of the fall things started dying Adams Garden died all of a sudden He's got thistles and thorns and he has to work by the sweat of his brow to exist The world

itself the physical world even participated in in the curse of Adam and Eve's sin Things got harder now There's lots of information about that and I'm going to ask you to exercise your curiosity to see what it is The believers condition Psalm 51 5 behold I was Born and said I was shapen in an equity now in the womb a child is Not making decisions The child is an embryo of a human being I believe from even from the time of conception certainly by the time of implantation on the wall of the uterus and that person is Forensically, there's a work for rent seek For rent seek means legal.

They are legally declared Sinners. Sinner is just a name and a category for those who are not in a relationship with their Creator, the human condition. Believers condition we are sinners from birth. We come out of the womb as sinners. I have a little sister. I'm 10 years older than her.

I never had the teacher to do the wrong thing. And you know, as she was growing up in my early days before I went into the US Navy, She would always do it because That's what we do. We do the wrong things. We are human beings. We just go in the wrong direction until we're straightened out. There are all kinds of texts about the believer's condition. We're sharpened in iniquity were formed in sin. Romans 1 to 3 is a litany of the darkness. That's a result of Adam's rebellion against God, and we're born into that same rebellion as human beings. There are lots of issues. We're a child You know, we have creative constructs here. We don't really have any direct text, but it seems to be reasonable that the child is under God's protection Until they come to the point in their life where they can make a decision to follow God and That decision can be complicated because not everybody is born in the Christian culture Not everybody hears about those things.

That's another lesson, a series of videos on the question of the unborn and of the born and what they call the age of accountability, if that is a valid Creek construct. Oh, You could trace that out. Each denomination, so to speak, has an answer to that. The Presbyterians have infant baptism. If a baptism supposedly protects the child under the parent's faith, Until that child comes to a point where the parents lead them into making their decision about Jesus. Well, those are other subjects, but our condition is in bad shape.

We're not as bad as we could be. We're not Hitler's, Mussolini's all the horrible people in our world, Stalin's, and all the others in various cultures who were narcissistic murderers. To say the least, we're not as bad as we can be even on human terms, but we are as bad off as we can be Because until we have a right relationship with God through Jesus, we are as bad off as we can be we're and the word sinner becomes a lump category Term that most people don't even understand. It barely means that we have transgressed against God's revealed will and That we don't know God and, therefore, we have no real capacity to obey him. We may do good things. I know a lot of sinners who are better people. Unsafe

people. I know a lot of unsafe people that I think are better people than some Christians, But they're not. They're not a part of God's redemption. Christians are perfect.

Some of them are pretty bad to be frank. We've all been in that category at one time or another, but redemption is the thing that gets us going, and hopefully? matures us, so How important is it in the Bible to know ourselves? We need to know ourselves. We are creatures that put up all kinds of defenses to keep people at bay. We control other people through manipulation. We're not honest. We'll be talking to somebody thinking one thing and saying another we are sinners to the core and But God has the solution for that in Jesus So the human condition the effects in the fall will never get away from those until the final redemption When God brings us to himself Now once again deja vu the dilemma of knowing God We can't overcome that distortion without God's Word we are lost The most intelligent people in the world who will not listen to God's Word Have no hope as smart as they are and maybe a successful in certain aspects of life that they are But according to the Bible There is no one under heaven whose name Bring a salvation other than Jesus work on the cross Now a biblical epistemology the third assumption the third assumption is that God's epistemological Provision for a fallen world and we come back to first Corinthians 2 6 to 16 I will put into this slide probably the bibliography for Kaiser's article It's in the material somewhere and I'll make sure that it's here when you get your copy From what I have on a seat on the stage right now but God's Epistemological provision is revelation God overcame the distortion by giving a scripture He gave it to us in a very natural way through Human beings it wasn't a dictation issue very often.

Well, there are a few places where that happens, but it was a Holy Spirit's work in the lives of prophets and apostles. Who encoded God's? Revelation so that we have it That doesn't happen with us That happened with them The Apostles and the prophets we have the product We in some ways are more blessed because we have the whole product And you can read in the Bible where they long to look into the future of what Jesus was going to be and do and Even Peter said Paul writes some things that are hard to understand in 2 Peter 3 Even Peter was sometimes puzzled by scripture He said our brother Paul who in the other scripture very interesting text on the Bible And yet here's an apostle who Lived in that culture who had talked to Paul who had access to information about Paul in his teaching still Stumbled and was challenged by what Paul had to say now if Peter was challenged I got news for you. We are really challenged That's why we have to be so diligent in our proceeded scripture. I'm not going to lecture more on 1st Corinthians 2 There I'll get put an article in here which you can go and read because you have to grab this for yourself and there's no better statement in my opinion than that walk the article by Walter Kaiser on Inspiration and the Bible and it's in the Westminster Journal and I'll have that on the slide when you get the slides Well, we're back to that again Sure, you're tired of it by now, but I hope that you get so tired of it.

You see it in your dreams. Okay, dreams come out of the busyness of a day's thoughts, and so, therefore, I'm going to invade your dreams. So, what is a worldview? Well, a Worldview is a conceptual System. It's a conceptual system. It's a lens. These glasses are lenses, and some people put on One Live, the Presbyterian lens, the holiness lens. The Bible is subject to us in many ways, And that's part of the diversity that God has not only allowed but decreed and why he did that. We don't know until it's all over, But we have lenses, and a worldview is our lens.

It's a mental framework a conceptual system. Now, when we come to the text of God's Word, we read the text that we always have those lenses on that's why That is why we have to discipline ourselves to understand the various lenses so that we can Get back behind their lenses and their creative constructs and ask the question. What does the text actually say? I am a What it to whatever extent I'm a scholar. I'm in the New Testament; I'm in the Bible. I Do a lot of theology, but I don't call myself a theologian because that's a massive domain. I'm just trying to study the Bible, and I can't get all that done, so I want to get to the text as it was given to us and Then do that contextualization as to what it means for us now and that is enough to keep us all busy and Here again, you may be in a situation as a layperson Where you say man, I wish I could do that.

I wish I could just quit my job and quit for liking what you can't do for my family and learn more. Well, that is your place in life. That is God's calling for you where you are right now, and you do the best you can. You listen to these lectures. You take it in, and you think about it. You listen to them again, and you and in growth as a process that's lifelong. We have to be lifelong learners with lifelong Curiosity about what the Bible teaches so we see the diversity in the lenses we have to work through. We see our world. We see ourselves. There's plenty of common knowledge among Christians, but there are still differences. It is the presuppositions and convictions that we own that we recognize and apply in our lives. They are basically our worldview. Now, all Christians have a worldview in common, But we have pieces of our worldview that come from other sources, And that's why we've got to continuously press and challenge our worldview. Now.

What does a worldview contain? How does our worldview focus our interpretation of ourselves in our world? What do different interpretations of the same data indicate about reality? I've hinted that that's a great deal of God's decree he has decreed the diversity, and We don't have an answer, but we have it, And we have to accept it and deal with it and glorify him in that process. All right now, what are the components of a worldview worldview? Answers who am I? This is called ontology. Be who I am as a B? Well, I'm creating the image of God. I'm his representative, Not his representation, but his representative. He's called me to be holy, for he is holy.

He's called me to be obedient. He's called me to a lot of things that I would then I can live ten lives and never fulfill, But I've got to pursue who I am. I'm a person created in the image of God Who's been given a mandate by God, and by his son Jesus to fulfill his will in this world? What do I know? Epistemology. Well, we know a lot of things, and we all have specialties. Some of you are engineers, Some of you are teachers, and some of you Repair cars and buses so the rest of us can get around.

That's a huge gift to be able to do that. We all, no matter what we do in life, like the body of Christ. We have a meaningful place to fulfill being in the image of God and working like in the garden and supplying our needs. Maybe God calls some to the places of being teachers and being able to dedicate our lives to that. To help you, we trust that you'll take advantage of that. What do I know? What do I know?

Knowledge is a growing thing, but we know some basics, and the basics are what God has given us in his work. He hasn't left us alone. He's given us a communication that will spend our life unpacking and only get So far. We have to have a paradigm to answer the questions that come to us in life, And that's what I'm trying to help you with. Furthermore, what should I do? So ontology? epistemology axiology Axios is the word Greek for values. Actually, axiology is what I should do. What do I value and life to perform? How do I obey God? Well, you've got a lot of Bible to answer that question, and So that is our calling.

Our calling is to fulfill the Scripture to obey God, and I'm going to talk to you about the concept of love as a part of that covenant of obedience to God when we get there. Okay? Now, back to this again. Well, you're going to get sick of this Well, but I hope you don't forget it. I hope you can draw it, share it with other people, and help them to move forward as well, but to transform mine, your worldview and values are being transformed, and it's going to be revised as you go on in life and learn some other things as You pursue God's Word. Let me give you just one little illustration It was the King James Bible reigned It was that there's a verse that first Thessalonians.

It says to avoid all appearances of evil. That's the King James translation all avoid all appearance of evil. I'm telling you that verse became a crowbar for people to Manipulate people into their way of thinking. You can't go to a restaurant that serves alcohol because you're in the midst of evil. You have to avoid all of the parents of evil. So that became a proof text to say you could go out for a nice meal In a situation where they might serve something like that. Oh, and Or to go to a ballgame or to watch television or whatever.

It might be that the verse was a crowbar. Better translations came along to render that I guess what we learned was that King James gave us something that created what's known as guilt by association. Avoid all appearances of evil, and the verse didn't say that. The verse axis actually says to avoid every kind Of evil. The word appearance isn't there. Avoid every kind of evil now; that's a no-ballgame. It's not about Guilt by association. It's not about appearance. It's about defining the kinds,

and guess where you get that definition. That's right from the text itself, so there's a lot to do. Transformation is a rational process, and I'm going to emphasize that transfer Transformation is a rational process based on biblical teaching. Now, you might ask this question: well, you haven't said much about the devotional life. What about your morning devotions? What about reading the Bible devotionally? Well, it would be great if your worldview, values, and understanding of scripture were capable of leading you to what the scriptures say so that your devotions are accurate. Devotions in and of themselves are great, but they depend on your ability to read scripture. Devotions are not extrapolated from scripture. Reading the Bible for 15 minutes in the morning, going out during the day, and forgetting what you read Isn't the secret to the Christian life? You'd be better off reading a dictionary of the Bible where you get an article that explains something about the Bible. Maybe you read the scriptures, and there's a word there.

If you don't understand, you pull down a one-volume dictionary. The Erdman's Dictionary of the Bible is a great one-volume dictionary to have, and guess what? You'll learn something, and when you learn something, you devote better. The subjectivism of devotions has gotten a lot of people in trouble because their Imagination is their only limitation out of that devotional moment Um, and they have bypassed the process of thinking about God's Word and what God's Word expects of us and how we Obey it. That's extremely crucial. You're not protected in your devotions. You'll say what the Holy Spirit told me. Well, I'm sorry, but I'm going to talk about that later. You're going to wake up to some things about what the Spirit does and doesn't do. We've been blaming the Spirit and actually blaming God a lot of times for things when it's our own problem. Hence, transformation by Romans 12 1 & 2 is a rational process be transformed by of changing your mind by incorporating and developing that worldview and value system. Furthermore, here's a little thing that I think a student drew for me. I've got credit somewhere dating that person, but I didn't draw this. It's a variation on this. You have God in the circle in eternity past. He reveals himself at his will through a variety of mediums to human representatives, Not representations Representatives.

There we are, and the Apostles encode the revelation in 1 Corinthians 2:6 to 16 and Then it comes to us upon which we become dependent on obeying and synthesizing into a worldview and values set. That's just another variation or a chart that I thought you might enjoy it All right, we've seen this one before, but let's look at it again. Your worldview makes decisions about education, health care, and so forth. I think I always try to see you a little bit about education homeschooling public school. The Bible didn't give you a proof text about that. In fact, the Bible didn't tell you about the way school was done other than study to show yourself approved. Have Bible verses around your neck in the Old Testament. Memorize the Bible. I word of I hid in my heart the heart is what mine The mind so that you can think about it through the day as you rise as you go to bed The scriptures were to the constant companion people Because that's what the guide is but Politics that's a tough one In the United

States, I'm sure you're aware that we have some pretty rousing elections. We haven't had any coups yet, but the fact is we have some very knocked-down-and-dragged-out elections in the United States. And so, consequently, Christians come to that.

How do we vote for a president? Well, Christians will say I'll vote for the president who's against abortion on demand well, that's a value that many of us as Christians have, but you've got to ask more questions than that about someone who's got a rule. Probably one of the most powerful nations in the world with the most horrible weapons at his disposal. So there's all kinds of issues that a Christian comes to these questions with but they all have to be adjudicated by our understanding of our worldview and values. We don't always get what we want, and we have to rest as it were in God's good decreative function in terms of our world. We may see some things in that regard that bother us, and we may bring on some of those things that bother us. There's a lot to think about the example of Abraham and Lot and their decisions. In spite of the worldview, Abraham and Lot participated in equal knowledge; Abraham shared what God revealed to him. He was the one through whom God was revealed in the physical context of Lot, and I think around the fires at night, oral communication was passed on. Orality was at the foundation of God's means of communicating in that period. You should look at Genesis chapters 17 and 19 to 19, read those over, and watch how Lot violates. The message that he got from Abraham was that God Sodom and Gomorrah during that period were not good cities.

They violated mosaic information that later came, but it hasn't come yet. We don't know how much God told Abram. I'm sure that it was enough to get them along. They knew, and the Bible makes it quite clear in the negative narrative of Genesis that Lot was a bad place. It was a place that violated God in so many ways. You know, you need to go ahead and read that and see how Lot gave in to being in the city for his cattle and the grass but not his kids and you see the results of what happened to his children in that regard. You see Lot sitting in the gate and the gate was a place of political power. He was a judge and I want you to look at 2nd Peter chapter 2 verses 4 to 10 because without 2nd Peter we would still be wondering a lot about Lot. People have written papers about Saul King. Saul was he a believer and that it's amazing how many papers have been written over that question. Well, if it wasn't for Peter, we'd be writing more papers about Lot than anybody. Look at chapter 2 verse 4 if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them in the hell and committed them to change of gloomy darkness to be kept them to the judgment. If he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah the herald of righteousness with seven others when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction making them example of what is going to happen to the ungodly those who violate God's rules and then it wasn't even written yet and if he rescued here, I mentioned this to you before Righteous Lot. Wait a minute that ought to wake you up.

How can you call Lot righteous? He had sex with his daughters. After he left the city, Moab and Hammon were born, and they became a thorn in Israel's side for the rest of their history. If he rescued a righteous Lot greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked, You know the story when you read a Genesis account. He offered his daughters to those sexually licentious people rather than give them out to the people who were visiting him who were angels, and he may not have totally understood what a wicked mindset that righteous man lived among them day after day. He was tormenting his righteous soul. What is righteous means in this context not that he did right but that he knew what was right. Now, there is a tough thing: He knew what was right but didn't do it. At this early stage in Scripture in redemptive history. This was not even recorded until Moses came in on the same scene.

He knew what was right But didn't do it That's a That's a horrible place to be a judge under mafia control Every time he was forced to make a judgment in concert with the values of that city He was torturing his own mind his own soul to its depths by that violation and The results of his living in that city on his family on his sons-in-law's that he lost It loses his wife who looked back at the destruction and in her mind and her life She said I'd hate you God The text doesn't say that I did I hate you God for doing this to my family to my house to my goods And because of that not a peek she didn't just peek back But she looked back with anger and God judged her on the spot But disagreed with his will in relation to that city so The values I have a sermon on a lot this title of my sermon is how to live a Horrible life How to live a horrible life, how do you live a horrible life by having knowing what's right and doing wrong Having values but ignoring them denying them If you're a Christian and you denied the values that you have To whatever extent you have them you feel bad. You should. That's conviction. In fact, it's the conviction of your conscience, But it also may be conviction of the spirit in the sense of convicting you that you're violating God's Word that you don't That's a that's the role of the spirit the role of the spirit is conviction The spirit's role is not to tell you what to do.

The spirit's role is not to give you Information. The Spirit's role is to convict you about the world views. The worldview and the values that you have and the work were in Romans 12:1 and 2 contexts, so the values of Abraham and Lot Abraham grew. He had some bad times, but he grew a lot went downhill, and their volitional choices, their will, and the moral development Abraham developed and Lot Developed in the wrong direction. That is an amazing picture of values and how Violating them can lead to a miserable life like what live a miserable life. Come read a lot and follow him as an example, and you will, Especially if you know God because God's not going to let you get by with it very easily. You're going to feel bad. You're going to be convicted until you Cultivate those convictions. You're going to be a miserable person, so may God deliver you from that. Now, caution: Our worldview and values always need to be validated by God's Word. We are not Authorities in and of ourselves about these things But we have to validate them through Scripture, and that's the work of the

entire church. The work of communities with them in the entire church as we progress ourselves toward obeying God. Consider Paul when he persecuted Christians in the book of Acts, and he may well have been in the presence of Stephen's stalling. He was being obedient to his worldview.

He felt good about incarcerating Christians, Even seeing them die. He felt good about that he was doing God a service his worldview and values were very established as a teacher in Israel as One who had studied under one of some of the great teachers of that time. He was so ingrained that Jesus had to slap him upside the head on the road to Damascus and say listen, Paul. You got to get straight down, and he got it straight down, and look what Paul became. Paul didn't write most of the New Testament. He wrote the most items in the New Testament, But Luke actually wrote the bulk. Luke and Acts are huge in bulk. Who was Luke's mentor? It was Paul. So, when he persecuted the church, he was obedient to his worldview. He probably had Stephen Stone. His worldview and values weren't correct prior to Jesus, But now it needed an adjustment. Paul was so faithful to his worldview and values God had to intervene, and Paul Made a change, and we see the results Know thyself You know, most of us never have the privilege of sort of standing outside of ourselves and looking at our behavior How we deal with other people how we deal with ourself how we deal in our family we are sometimes blind to ourselves there was an Unbelieving poet Thoreau who made it comment the unexamined life is not worth living people who don't know themselves Are this is the most miserable kind of people Because they're banging through life trying to manipulate life to be what they wanted to be even trying to manipulate God To be what they want him to be.

Well, all the time, he sits there patiently and waits for them To know him so that they can know themselves. We must all be diligent in maintaining our awareness that our worldview and values conform to God's Word So that the decisions that we make in life will be in conformity to his will. All right, well, that's GM. Are you sure I get the right number for you here? Oh, Well, I got so many pages done, GM 7, and I gave you that handout, which I didn't go over, that you have in your notes. We've talked about worldview and values, But we talked mostly about worldview and how that is set up. In the next lesson, GM 8, the next lesson will be on values to see how they operate from our worldview. I hope you're being helped by this, and I trust that God will bless you as you go through your day