

# Biblical Integration

## Ezra 7:10

<sup>NAU</sup> **Ezra 7:10** For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

### Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to compare and contrast Postmodern and Biblical worldviews; as well as properly integrate the Biblical worldview in a postmodern culture.

### Introduction

Helicopter vs. Mountain Climb / Wilkerson's Information Shifter

### 1. Need for Biblical Integration: Alarming Statistics

1. 53% of evangelicals believe that the Bible has major errors.
2. 68% of church goers believe that faith does not relate to real life.
3. 92% of Christians cannot articulate a biblical worldview.
4. 70% of Christian teens will have stopped attending church within two years of their high school graduation.
5. 50% of those teens who stop attending church will never again become involved.

These statistics indicate that it is time to go on the offensive in preparing our young people to go to war against “principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

1. 47% of evangelicals believe that the Bible is inerrant.
2. 32% of church goers believe that faith relates to real life.
3. 8% of Christians can articulate a biblical worldview.
4. 30% of Christian teens will still be attending church within two years of their high school graduation.
5. 50% of those teens who stop attending church will never again become involved.

### 2. Essentials for Completing Biblical Integration

What you can do to ensure that you present a consistent, Christ-centered, worldview in your teaching.

1. **Constantly evaluate what you teach, why you teach it, and how you teach it.** Many of us have received some, if not all, of our formal educational training in secular institutions and can quite unintentionally find ourselves thinking, acting, and teaching from a less than Christ-centered perspective. We are like fish swimming in a postmodern ocean, forgetting that water exists.
2. **Realize that without a well-defined action plan we cannot assume that what we are saying will be correctly heard by our students.** We

have to take the time to develop a strategy that can penetrate their cultural filters.

3. **We must commit ourselves to become students of the Scripture—and of our students.** Our success at consistently communicating a Christ-centered worldview to our students flows directly out of our commitment to know Him on a personal, intimate level. Students do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care. They have seen so much hypocrisy that they are leery about being taken in one more time.

### 3. Know your students

**Students have absorbed postmodernism and relativism without being aware that they have done so.**

The characteristic tenets of liberal faith in America in the early years of this century may be summarized as follows:<sup>1</sup>

**1. God's character is one of pure benevolence, that is, without standards.** All men are His children, and sin separates no one from His love. The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man are alike universal.

**2. There is a divine spark in every man.** All men, therefore, are good at heart, and need nothing more than encouragement to allow their natural goodness to express itself.

**3. Jesus Christ is man's Savior only in the sense that He is man's perfect Teacher and Example.** We should regard Him simply as the first Christian, our elder brother in the world-wide family of God. He was not divine in any unique sense. He was God only in the sense that He was a perfectly God-conscious and God-guided man. He was not born of a virgin; He did not work miracles, in the sense of 'mighty works' of divine creative power; and He did not rise from the dead.

**4. Just as Christ differs from other men only comparatively, not absolutely, so Christianity differs from other religions not generically, but merely as the best and highest type of religion that has yet appeared.** All religions are forms of the same religion, just as all men are members of the same divine family. It follows, of course, that Foreign Missions should not aim to convert from one faith to another, but rather to promote a cross-fertilizing interchange whereby each religion may be enriched through the contribution of all others.

**5. The Bible is not a divine record of revelation, but a human testament of religion; and Christian doctrine is not the God-given word which must create and control Christian experience.** According to Liberalism Christian experience is directly infectious within the Christian community it is "caught", like mumps; and this experience creates and controls Christian doctrine, which is merely an attempt to give it verbal

---

<sup>1</sup> Mal Couch, *The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century: Examining the Crucial Issues of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2000), p. 23.

expression. Poetry, according to Wordsworth, consists of emotion recollected in tranquility. Doctrine, according to Liberalism, has a precisely similar character. It is nothing more than an endeavor to put into words the content of religious feelings, impressions and intuitions. The only facts to which doctrinal statements give expression are the feelings of those who produce them. The New Testament contains the earliest attempts to express the Christian experience in words; its value lies in the fact that it is a first-hand witness to that experience. Other generations, however, must express the same experience in different words. Doctrinal formula, like poetic idiom, will vary from age to age and place to place, according to the variation of cultural backgrounds. The first-century theology of the New Testament cannot be normative for twentieth-century men. But this is no cause for concern, and means no loss. Doctrine is not basic or essential to any form of religion; no doctrinal statements or creedal forms, therefore, are basic or essential to Christianity. In so far as there is a permanent Christian message, **it is not doctrinal, but ethical—the moral teaching of Jesus of turning the other cheek** (e.g. Red letter Christians).

### **The liberalism of the past has become the Postmodernism of the present.**

Surveys indicate that the majority of graduates of Christian schools either consciously or subconsciously agree to the following:

1. That each person finds or creates their own truth—everything is relative. It's all about me.
2. That organized church is irrelevant, boring, and a waste of time.
3. That what the Bible says has no practical relationship to life.
4. That evolution on some level is scientific fact—everything is an accident, miracles cannot happen, Jesus could not rise from the dead.
5. That the only real sin is judging others—intolerance must be punished.
6. Tolerance of sin is a virtue. It is impossible to love the sinner and hate the sin; both must be accepted both as OK—condemning sin is a hate crime.
7. That premarital sex is not wrong if you are in love—God hates sex.
8. That homosexuality is not wrong—Christians are guilty of hate.
9. That Christians are evil; even though evil does not exist.
10. That the separation of church and state virtually outlaws Christianity.

### **4. Worldview Checklist**

- ✓  I can articulate what the Word of God says about the nature of God, the nature of man, the nature of knowledge, the nature of good and evil, the nature of salvation, the nature of sanctification, and the nature of the future.
- ✓  I can make the case for the supernatural.
- ✓  I can make the case for absolute truth.
- ✓  I can make the case for miracles and divine intervention.
- ✓  I can make the case for biblical tolerance and separation.
- ✓  I can make the case for the existence of sin.
- ✓  I can make the case for sexual purity and for integrity.
- ✓  I can make the case for good and evil.
- ✓  I apply my God-centered worldview to my daily life and teaching.
- ✓  I make extra effort in getting to know my students outside my classroom.
- ✓  I expose my students to great Christian communicators.

- ✓  I clearly communicate through my lifestyle and spoken and written word the importance of developing an intimate relationship with the Lord.
- ✓  I practice journaling in order to reflect on what I teach, why I teach it, and how I teach.
- ✓  I am able to relate the subjects I teach to God's truth. I make at least one reference, application, or illustration relating to a God-centered worldview in each lesson.
- ✓  I am able to integrate the subjects I teach into the whole pattern of God's truth.
- ✓  My lesson plans include a clear outline of how I plan to integrate God's truth into what I teach on a daily basis.
- ✓  I can articulate the issues youth face in regards to: purpose, worship, belonging, temptation, trials, shape, mission, self-esteem, sexual temptation, good and evil, right and wrong, homosexuality, friends, speech, life calling, personality, family, education, painful experiences, spiritual gifts, heart's desires, masculinity, marriage, love, joy, peace, perseverance, humility, making a difference, etc.

## Strategies for Achieving Biblical Integration

### ✂ Strategy 1

**Understand the task at hand: Determine how prepared you are to impact students' lives for Christ.**

1. You are developing a more intimate relationship with Christ through **Spiritual Disciplines**: Bible intake, prayer, journaling, worship, fasting, solitude, serving.
2. You are developing caring respectful **relationships** with students.
3. You are reflecting God's love to each student.
4. You are a student of the **Scriptures**.
5. You are relating the subject to **God's truth**.
6. You are integrating your subject into the **whole pattern** of God's truth.
7. You daily praise and thank God for the work He is doing in your own life and in the lives of your students.

### ✂ Strategy 2

**Put your life priorities in the right order through balance and focus in Seven Areas<sup>2</sup>**

1. **Financial**: are you making and annually reviewing your income and financial investments? Attending a Crown Financial workshop can dramatically increase your financial confidence.
2. **Physical**: are you taking long walks, exercising, meditating, and relaxing each week? Physical exercise is a cleansing process that can dramatically increase your creativity.
3. **Personal Development**: are you reading a book per month? Personal development will dramatically increase your success. Reading 3 books on any subject will make you an expert in that topic.
4. **Family**: are you spending 20 minutes each night with your children? Are you spending one Saturday morning doing what your children want to do? Do you go on a weekly date with your spouse? Do you go camping? Do you have an

---

<sup>2</sup> Dan Miller, *48 Days to the Work You Love* (Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2007), 61-68.

overnight event with your spouse every three months? Great relationships do not just happen—they come as the result of making deposits toward the “success” you want. Being a success at home will dramatically increase your success in work and ministry.

5. **Spiritual:** are you involved in small groups, in spiritual disciplines, and in journaling? Spiritual courage and risk taking based on trust in God will dramatically increase your success.
6. **Social:** are you spending time making and maintaining same sex friendships? Do you have a mentor? Are you mentoring someone? Six ways to make people like you: (1) Become genuinely interested in other people. (2) Smile. (3) Remember that a person’s name is the most important sound in any language. (4) Encourage others to talk about themselves. (5) Talk in terms of the other person’s interests. (6) Make the other person feel important—and do it sincerely.
7. **Career:** Are you achieving your dreams, hopes, and calling? Your career should be a reflection of the life you want. Pursuing the calling you were made for will dramatically increase your enthusiasm.

### ✦ Strategy 3

**In a society that encourages tolerance and pluralism we must be on our guard to ensure that we are successful in communicating to our students a thoroughly God-centered worldview.** Most students struggle with tolerance and pluralism.

1. Learn how to articulate biblical tolerance vs. **neo-tolerance**.
2. Learn how to articulate the relationship between **divine revelation** and pluralism.
3. Learn how to articulate the difference between **God’s gifts** and Satan’s substitutes? Wealth, purpose, love, power vs. money, ambition, sex, clout.

### ✦ Strategy 4

**Teaching involves more than imparting knowledge, it is developing character and shaping the worldview of students.**

Create an environment that is conducive to learning that is:

1. **Safe** and secure, permeated with love and **respect**.
2. Academically **challenging**
3. Age-**appropriate**
4. **Real life** and **application** oriented.
5. Addresses the **spiritual**, academic, and social needs of students.
6. Uses a wide **variety** of teaching techniques to ensure that the needs of students with different learning styles are met.
7. Samples and rubrics are available and students never have to guess what is **expected** of them; **expectations** are frequently shared with the class.

## ✦ Strategy 5

### Element One: Form a Worldview based on Seven of Life's Major Questions

See *The Universe Next Door* by James W. Sire

1. **What is prime reality?** Eternal God or eternal matter?
2. **What is the nature of the world around us?** Created order or accidental chaos?
3. **What or who is a human being?** The image of God or a naked sexual ape?
4. **What happens to a person at death?** Resurrection or extinction?
5. **Why is it possible to know at all?** Reason or accident?
6. **What is the basis for right and wrong?** Divine standard or personal opinion?
7. **What is the meaning of human history?** God's plan or personal fulfillment?

### Element Two: Create interactive, engaging lessons

1. Engaged **mentally**.
2. Challenged to use **prior knowledge** to connect to new knowledge.
3. Used in **real life** and not just for regurgitation on a test.
4. Life **integration** activities.

### Element Three: Processing Activities—Debriefing Questions

1. **Correlation**: What in the lesson today correlates, associates with, or fits together with a biblical answer to one of life's major questions?
2. **Correction**: What in the lesson today needs to be evaluated in light of a biblical answer to one of life's biggest questions because it appears to conflict with what we know clearly from the Word of God?
3. **Continued Study**: What in the lesson today brings up a question in the mind of the student for which there is no immediate answer from either the subject area or the Bible?

### Element Four: Assessment Activities

1. Find out if students connect, relate, and make sense out of the new material in light of the integrating core.
2. Conduct assessment through tests, portfolio artifacts, projects, papers, and performances.

## **Part 4**

### **Essentials for Completing Biblical Integration**

**Introduction:** David Livingston Discovering Victoria Falls

**Hermeneutics:** Rules of Bible Interpretation

Provide samples and case studies of biblical integration in economics, in history, in psychology, in philosophy, in relationships, to the nature of evil.

100 Life Lessons from the lives of Biblical Characters

100 Life Lessons from wisdom literature: Proverbs, James

100 Life Lessons from the teachings of Jesus:

100 Life Lessons from my life:

100 Life Lessons from the godly men of the past: missionaries and statesmen

100 Challenges from the Bible Characters:

100 Questions from the Bible

#### **Fine Arts**

Share examples of fine arts related to the Bible.

#### **Health**

Share how following the Word of God leads to greater health.

#### **History**

Tell what was happening in Israel during the time of Egypt, Plato, Alexander the Great, Caesar, etc., as well as prophecies and their fulfillments (e.g. Daniel).

#### **Literature**

Give examples of different literary styles used in the Bible

#### **Math**

Share the absolute principles of math and how math is used in the Bible

#### **Philosophy**

Share the different philosophies referred to in the Bible.

#### **Psychology**

Share what Biblical characters were feeling and how their personalities were expressed.

#### **Science**

Share the scientific discoveries inspired by the Bible.