

DBU Worship Formation Program  
Calvin Institute for Christian Worship Lily Grant  
Questions on *The Transforming Vision*, chps 3-5

Instructions:

- Pick a leader who will also serve as a spokesperson for your group
- Focus on the questions on your designated chapter and then work your way through as many additional questions as possible
- Jot down key insights
- Be prepared to share these insights with the whole group at the end of our meeting

Questions for Chapter Three: Based on Creation

1. Why is an understanding of creation such a pivotal aspect of the Christian faith? Do you think this doctrine has been neglected? Why or why not? pp. 43-44. Read and discuss footnote 1 that is cited on p. 43, and is found on p. 188.
2. The Bible teaches that God created the universe and our world by His Word and Wisdom. What Scriptures are used to support this teaching and what do they actually teach? pp. 44-48
3. What are the two implications of this teaching about God creating all things by His Word and Wisdom? How does the first of these two implications apply to our concerns about worship formation here at DBU? pp. 48-49
4. The authors believe that God established a covenant with creation. Have you ever heard of such a covenant? What is their basis for this belief? pp. 49-50. How do they tie the various strands of their thinking together beginning at the middle of page 51 until the end of this section?
5. According to our authors, what does it mean to be created as God's image and likeness? What was new to you in this understanding of our identity as *imago Dei*? pp. 52-53
6. The section on ruling the earth (pp. 53-56) is chock full of insights. How do they connect ruling the earth to being the image of God (p. 54)? How do they connect ruling the earth to culture, history, and community (pp. 54-55)? Read the last two paragraphs on p. 55, and the first complete paragraph on p. 56 out loud and state what you discover in this paragraphs.
7. Based on the section on pp. 58-59, what do our authors believe are our environmental/ecological responsibilities? Do you agree?
8. What BIG questions are answered by the theme of creation?

Questions for Chapter Four: Acknowledging the Fall

1. What BIG question does the doctrine of the fall answer? What is our nature as human beings and what are our two religious alternatives, our two covenantal ways? What is meant by the term "antithesis" in this context? pp. 61-62.
2. Explain the dynamics of idolatry insofar as idols take God's place. What are the profound consequences of this form of idolatry? pp. 62-64
3. Explain the dynamics of idolatry insofar as idols take our place. Why in this context do our authors believe that the *whole* person, including the physical body, is the image of God? What are the profound consequences of this form of idolatry? pp. 64-65
4. What are the two covenantal ways between which human beings must choose? Are there any other options? What does the book of Deuteronomy contribute to this understanding of the two covenantal ways? What are the consequences of covenant submission and obedience? What are the consequences of covenant rebellion and disobedience? pp. 65-67
5. What does this first sentence in the next section beginning on p. 67 mean? "The paths of wisdom-obedience and folly-disobedience cut across everything we do." What arguments do our authors use to destroy the sacred/secular split? How does farming (based on Isaiah 28: 24-28) serve as an example of the holistic point of view? How does the building of the tabernacle as depicted in Exod. 31: 3-5 also shatter dualism? pp. 67-69
6. Are you a dualist? Why or why not?

7. What role did Satan play in the fall of humanity into sin? Describe the traits of his character and kingdom, and the consequences of his actions on humanity and the earth. The Bible teaches that human history is caught up in a war between two clashing kingdoms: God's and Satan's. What implications does this warfare have on life today? pp. 69-71

#### Questions for Chapter Five: Transformed by Redemption

1. What BIG question does the doctrine of redemption answer? p. 73.
2. Explain the concept of "redemptive history." With what promise does redemptive history begin, and what is the content of that promise? pp. 73-74
3. What role do covenants play in redemptive history, especially the covenants with Noah and Abraham? What is the content of these two covenants? How does Noah's covenant relate to creation? How is Abraham's covenant connected to the land? How does Abraham's covenant narrow the redemptive focus for a while? How does it later open up to the whole world? What role, then, does Israel play in redemptive history? pp. 75-77
4. What is the definition of the kingdom of God? What is the evidence for the kingdom in the ministry of Christ? What are the chief traits of this kingdom? pp. 77-79
5. How is the concept of the kingdom connected to the idea of covenant? Though the kingdom concept is not as common outside the synoptic gospels, how do Acts 3: 21, Rom. 8: 19-23, 2 Pet. 3: 10-13, and Rev. 21: 1 convey the comprehensive, restorative nature of redemption? What two things do these passages emphasize about redemption? pp. 79-80
6. How does the kingdom relate to the exorcism of demons, and to the death and resurrection of Jesus? In what sense is the kingdom like leaven, and in what way is it both already present and not yet complete as explained by the D-Day/V-Day analogy? Is Satan a defeated foe already? Why or why not?
7. The three great consequences of redemption are these: we are renewed as God's image (pp. 83-84), the Holy Spirit is poured out in the world (pp. 84-86), and the community of believers is established in the church (pp. 86-88). What are the most important insights from each of these sections?
8. How do we go about imaging Christ in our culture? How does the concept of structure and direction help answer this question? pp. 88-90

Question for each table: Examine the 2 diagrams that follow, and try to figure out what they are teaching. In this light, what is the meaning of this statement?

"Christianity is not a realm of life, but a way of life for every realm."

Review:

#### Chapter One: Worldview and Culture

1. That worldviews are not formal, abstract systems of thought like theologies or philosophies.
2. That worldviews are perceptual frameworks, ways of seeing and understanding, visions of life and for life.
3. That worldviews are best grasped, manifested, expressed when incarnated and fleshed out in actual ways of life, or in a particular culture.
  - a. bathing babies among the Japanese and Canadian families;
  - b. different ways of looking at land between Dene and Inuit native American peoples and Euro-canadians

#### Chapter Two: Analyzing Worldviews

1. Worldview, worldview, everyone's got a worldview:
2. Worlds apart:

WV — Are understood as conceptual universes which makes it difficult to communicate with others across world view boundaries (different universes of discourse).
3. The basis of a worldview:

WV — As a faith commitment, answers four basic questions: 1. Who am I? 2. Where am I? 3. What's gone wrong? 4. What's the remedy?
4. Evaluating a worldview:
  1. *Consistent with reality*
  2. *Internal coherence*
  3. *Openness* (existential livability)

WV — Recognizes its own limitations and is open to correction, refinement, learning and reformation
5. A Christian Worldview:

WV — there are many Christian worlviews (Christian worldview pluralism)

WV — may or may not be in line with Scripture: is your Christian worldview biblical?

Today, investigate chps 3-5 on creation, fall, redemption.

Chp 3: Based on Creation

Chp. 4: Acknowledging the Fall

Chp. 5: Transformed by Redemption

- Rich study of the Scriptures from both OT and NT
- CFR is outline of the Bible, the basic biblical story, the metanarrative of Scripture.
- All the things necessary for a good story; cast of characters, with God in the lead role. Setting in the garden; conflict; resolution of a conflict; happy ending.
- Makes sense of the world and our place in it. Story to be inhabited and indwelt. Loved and lived out on nerve endings of life.
- Creation: Gen 1-2: Where, who and why we are here
- Fall/Uncreation: Gen 3: What's gone wrong?
- Redemption/New creation: Gen. 3: 15-Rev. 22: 21  
OT: Promise  
NT: Fulfillment (already), consummation (not yet)

Big Picture; Universal, all-encompassing in scope; wing span; breadth and depth

**Solves three problems of the Christian life:**

1. *Bits and pieces:*

- A teaching here, a doctrine there, a ministry activity here, a church event there.
- But how do these “bits and pieces” fit together to form a coherent Christian vision of life?
- The unassembled components of a large jigsaw puzzle!
- Unconnected dots
- How the parts of the faith relate to whole, and how the whole relates to the parts, imparting deeper meaning and greater power to both.
- Glue that holds the bits and pieces of the Christian faith together, forming a clear and systematic view of life!

2. *The problem of connecting the Old and New Testaments.*

- “New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs” believers
- As a result, however, they have an incomplete story.
- Their Bibles in a sense start with the gospel of Matthew, thirty-nine books too late!
- It's like showing up for a movie an hour after it begins!

- Like reading a 66 chp book, beginning in 40 chp.
- Everything is out of context, and as a result, easily misunderstood
- A Christian worldview, however, takes the whole counsel of God — from Genesis to Revelation — into consideration.
- It deals with the *whole* Bible, not just the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs! It ties the Old and New Testaments together.
- Connects creation, Israel, Church, Adam, Abraham, Jesus.
- It helps us to understand the overall plot and essential theological unity of God's larger story.

### 3. *The problem of dualism.*

- Divide life itself up into the airtight compartments of the sacred and the secular.
- Compartmentalized faith separate realm of life.
- This “split-vision” of reality regards church-related activities such as prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and evangelism as spiritually significant and of eternal value.
- Everything else outside this sacred realm has no real connection to God's kingdom, and is viewed as temporal and basically unimportant.
- In place of this sinister dualism, a biblically-based worldview offers a fresh, motivating vision of wholeness.
- It embraces the entirety of life.
- It redefines the nature of sacred and secular in terms of obedience and disobedience respectively.
- It brings the totality of life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Christianity is concerned about the whole person, the whole of life, and the whole world!
- For God is not a God of dualism, but of unity, integrity, and completeness.
- This is exactly what a truly biblical view of life teaches!
- We must learn to just say NO! to dualism through a Christian worldview!

Divide into groups of 5-8. No more than 8.

Groups for each chapter; all answer last question

Answer questions efficiently; keep on task; don't labor long on any one question.  
Report to group at end.

A word about reading: read well! Reflect! Talk with others outside of this session, outside of those involved.

Article on worship by T. M. Moore.