

TriBakery Group: Worldview #6

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

Scripture:

“...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:5

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.”

Philippians 4:8

Remember:

Every worldview has to hold three main areas of belief:

Creation – where do we come from?

Fall – how come there is evil in the world?

Redemption – how do you correct or change the evil?

Quotes:

“Evangelicals now constitute the largest and most active component of religious life in North America.”

Mark Noll, The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind

“Most of us probably apply the term to all Christians who are Bible-Believing and personally committed...So what does the term mean? American historians typically use it in a more technical sense to refer to a movement that grew out of the First and Second Great Awakenings, embracing a revivalist style preaching and an emphasis on personal conversion (the ‘New Birth’).”

Nancy Pearcey, p256, Total Truth

“Historically, evangelicalism began as a renewal movement within the churches, not as a separate denomination – and that explains why at first it did not develop an independent intellectual tradition. It didn’t need to. It could take for granted the inherited theological and ecclesiastical structures within the denominations where it arose. Like the pietists before them, evangelicals focused on the personal appropriation of theological teachings like sin and atonement. Their goal was to cultivate a *subjective* experience of *objective* biblical truths. As a result, when evangelicalism became dominant within various groups – or when evangelical groups broke away from existing denominations altogether and became independent – they suffered from certain theological weaknesses. Evangelical groups tended to downplay the role of theology in favor of practical application such as personal devotion, moral living, and social reform.

Nancy Pearcey, p253, Total Truth

“...the evangelical movement divided roughly into two wings. The first we might call populist: It had a strong revivalist style that downplayed doctrine and appealed to ordinary folk. Strongest in the Southern states, this stream included mostly Baptists, Methodists, and the Restoration movement (the Churches of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, and the “Christian” Churches). The second wing was rationalist and scholarly. Centered in the North, it included evangelicals within Congregationalist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian churches, who united evangelical fervor with these denominations’ traditional emphasis on theology and scholarship.”

Nancy Pearcey, p256, Total Truth

“To build a great city for all people—through a gospel movement that brings personal conversion, community formation, social justice and cultural renewal to New York and, through it, to the world.”

Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NYC vision as of this year 2005

Discussion: Do you mind being considered an “evangelical”? Why or why not? What are the implications to us here of our “evangelical” past? What are advantages and disadvantages? How can we value the advantages and grow beyond the disadvantages as artists in the church? Is there any parallel in the secular art world of cultivating “subjective” experiences of “objective” truth? Why or why not?