

Al Wolters, *Creation Regained*
Chapter One: What is a Worldview?

I. The goal of Dr. Wolter's book, *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics of a Reformational Worldview*, its theological background and distinctives.

- A. The goal of this book

- B. The theological background of this book

- C. The distinctives of the Protestant Reformational worldview (more on this later)

II. The origin of the term "worldview" (*Weltanschauung*) and a definition of the concept.

- A. The origin of the term "worldview" (*Weltanschauung*)

- B. A definition of the concept—"The comprehensive framework of one's basic beliefs about things" (2).
 - 1. Things

 - 2. Beliefs

 - 3. Basic

 - 4. Comprehensive framework

III. Additional Principles Regarding Worldviews

A. Everybody has a worldview.

B. Worldviews serve as a guide to life.

C. The relationship of worldview and conduct or behavior.

1. Not only is it possible to hold to contradictory views about things, but it is also possible to live in contradiction to one's worldview beliefs.

2. Worldviews ought to be the primary source of human behavior for the Christian.

- a. Emotion
- b. Physical stimuli
- c. Economics and class interest
- d. Environmental conditioning
- e. Sexual and repressed feelings
- f. DNA

D. The relationship of worldview to Scripture.

1. Problem with culture's rejection of biblical authority:

2. Problem with the church's limitation of the Bible to private morality.

E. The relationship of worldview to theology and philosophy.

1. Life perspectives vs. specialized disciplines

2. The theoretical nature of theology and philosophy and the pretheoretical nature of worldviews.

3. The distinction between structure and direction

a. Structure: philosophy

b. Direction: theology

c. Structure and direction: worldview

III. What is distinctive about the Protestant Reformed worldview

A. In comparison to alternative Christian worldviews, the Protestant reformed worldview is comprehensive, cosmic, all-encompassing, and universal in scope.

1. Sacred/secular split (dualism)

2. Wholistic, comprehensive

B. In comparison to alternative Christian worldviews, the Protestant reformed worldview emphasizes creation and incarnation and insists that “grace restores nature.”

1. The reformational worldview involves three primary features:

a. The original very good creation

b. The perversion of that very good creation through sin

c. The restoration or renewal of that creation in Jesus Christ

2. Hence, “grace restores nature” (new creation, literally)

3. Definition of Christianity: “to salvage a sin-wrecked creation”