

PRINCIPLE SEVEN: Apply to the Head

What do we mean by “Apply to the Head”?

To **Apply** God’s Word is simply to put it to work in some area of life and allow it to have its intended effect.

The **Head** refers to how we understand ourselves, the world in which we live, and the God who made it. We often refer to this as our “worldview.” It is shaped by our: upbringing, experiences, culture, and time in history.

We constantly encounter new information and must either:

1. Ignore it or outright reject it
2. Accept it and allow it to reshape our worldview



How do our worldviews shape our reading of the Bible?

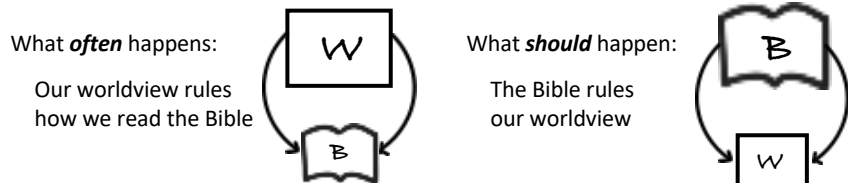
Our worldviews affect how we read the Bible, including the way we see God, ourselves, our sin, and our need for Christ.

The problem with worldviews is not that each of us has one, but that our worldview can wrongly influence how we read the Bible. Additionally, we are often unaware of how our worldview affects our reading of the Bible or are unwilling to submit our worldview to the Bible.

How should the Bible re-shape our worldviews?

For the Christian, the Bible is God’s Word and is therefore both sufficient and necessary for living rightly before him (2 Tim 3:15-17).

While our worldview *affects* how we read the Bible, it shouldn’t *rule* how we read the Bible. To rightly understand God’s Word and then live rightly before him, we must submit our worldview to the Bible, not the other way around.



To apply the truth of God’s Word to your worldview, identify:

1. Existing aspects of your worldview, including how you see: God, God’s Word, God’s work, humanity, sin, salvation, and/or Gospel-ministry
2. How God’s Word challenges, corrects, or confirms those aspects

Questions to Consider:

In the opening verses of the book of Jonah, we read about Jonah fleeing from God’s command to go to Nineveh.

After Nineveh “turned from their evil way” (3:10) and God turned from destroying them, Jonah tells us in his own words why he fled in the first place.

Read Jonah 4:1-3.

How would you describe Jonah’s worldview in terms of how he sees God’s mercy toward the Ninevites?

What parts of the Bible seem to have shaped his worldview in this respect?

What parts of the Bible should’ve re-shaped this aspect of his worldview?

Think of a situation in your own life in which you would have as much distaste for God’s mercy as Jonah did.

In what ways should these same parts of the Bible re-shape your worldview?

In what ways should the book of Jonah reshape your worldview?