

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

[Christian Worldview](#)

The Table of Contents is below the Highlights section. To navigate through this document, select a chapter or section in the Table of Contents, press and hold the Ctrl button while left clicking the mouse.

Highlights

One way the devil uses to maintain power is to create confusion. An example discussed is the differences between Classical Liberalism and Modern Liberalism. These are two radically different ideas. To understand the influence of the devil upon society requires education. We must understand how society works and compare our knowledge to what is said in the Bible. This is the only way to create a Christian Worldview that has any meaning.

Let us review a few of the beliefs of Christians to obtain a foundation whereby we may start a discussion:

- Mankind was created by God and angels in their image. In the fourteen chapter of John, Jesus tells us mankind has much more potential than what he uses. In Genesis, God and the angels realized that mankind was on the same level as them (Genesis 3:22).
- Private property is very important. God and the angels sent mankind into the world to care for it. Please see the section on Private Property.
- The Earth is the densest planet in our solar system. It has over 10,000 minerals that we should find ways to use to our advantage while maintaining a clean environment. We are entering into a time where we will begin space travel. This will demand different types of minerals and technologies.
- Faith is important to Christianity. We must have faith in the divine presence that is within ourselves. If we have faith, the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains.
- The Bible has many references to the spiritual realm, there is much more to life than what is seen within the physical world. Having faith means that you may believe that you may communicate with God and Jesus to help you find direction.
- Friendship and fellowship are important foundations to Christianity. Jesus taught that we should love one another as we love ourselves. Baptism and Communion are essential to Christianity.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

- Baptism is a pledge that one will walk and act within Christian values. Communion is a renewal of the pledges you made at your baptism – we all fall short in our pledges to walk and act in our Christian values.
- Education is very important. the paper discusses the importance of education in detail and how it is important to finding the proper paths in your lives. The concept of rhetoric gives you ways to evaluate people by evaluating how people say what they say.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Table of Contents

Christian Worldview	1
Highlights	1
Introduction	5
Chapter 1 – The Foundations.....	7
Whence Came Us and Whither Can We Go.....	7
The spiritual Realm and the Natural Reilm	10
Chapter 2 – Foundations of Christianity	13
The Morning Star	13
Jesus.....	14
Parables and the Sermon on the Mount	16
The Writings of Paul versus James.....	19
Common Sense Teachings of Jesus	20
Baptism and Holy Communion.....	21
True Christians are Disciples of Christ.....	23
Chapter 3 - Christianity	25
Faith	25
Love and Marriage	27
Friendship and Fellowship	30
Benefits of being a Christian (Jolly-Miller):.....	33
Top Bible Verses on Strength	34
Should Christianity be Considered a Religion?.....	34
Chapter 4 - Education	36
Education	36
The Trivium and Quadrivium.....	38
Rhetoric	39
Chapter 5 – Influences on Christianity.....	41
The Protestant Reformation	41
Communist Influence upon Christianity	41
Chapter 6 - How the Bible should influence Governance of Countries	44
Comparison of Ancient Times to Modern Times.....	44
Christians and Governments	45

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Classical Liberalism.....	46
Modern Liberalism.....	47
Comparison among Modern Liberalism, Modern Conservatism, and Classical Liberalism.....	48
Private property.....	52
John Locke.....	55
The Earth.....	56
Promoting Better People in Government.....	57
The Christian World View Summary.....	59
References and further readings for when you need sleep:.....	61
Appendix.....	70
Verses of Fire from Heaven, Angels, and Miscellaneous Verses.....	71
Famous Scientists who were Christian.....	78
Love, Marriage, and Sex.....	82
Notes on Freemasonry.....	84
The Forget-Me-Not.....	86
Background.....	89

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Introduction

I am not educated in religious studies. All comments are a layman's observations over a period of over 70 years on this planet that are reinforced by research while writing this paper. I would appreciate it if those who have been educated in religious studies could recommend additions. There may be places in this document where my phraseology could be improved. To list references, I loosely followed the American Psychological Association writing standards.

There are several topics considered in this paper listed in the Table of Contents above that will be discussed. I selected topics from my point of view. My objective was to compare what is in the Bible to writings that I am familiar with in today's world. In many instances, I found writings that agreed with the Bible, and writings that were the Bible's antithesis. I hope that the discussions will stimulate thought. Some may disagree with various points in my discussions, but few true Christians will disagree with my conclusions. In my opinion, if what I say makes you angry, I think you might need to reevaluate your position. There are many political positions today that are not only anti-biblical, but also anti-humanitarian. I will discuss some of these.

The format of the paper gives Highlights first, an Introduction, discussion of topics listed in the Table of Contents within the various chapters, Christian Worldview Summary, a list of references, and an Appendix. The design of the report is so people may read the Highlights and then pick and choose what they find most interesting. From my perspective, the many aspects of mankind need to be interconnected with teachings of Jesus. Mankind came up from primitive beginnings to a very advanced civilization. A civilization that can produce everything needed and even travel into space and to the depths of the oceans. But in many respects, we are still primitive. We are drawn between our desire to create a more advanced civilization or to return to an entirely agrarian society. Let us compare where mankind has come from, the strengths and weaknesses of Christianity, and what a Christian Worldview should be from my perspective.

I decided to generally to use the King James Version. It just makes more sense to me in many instances, although other versions use more modern language. For example, in the thirteen chapter of 1 Corinthians at the last verse is ¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Later versions use Love in the place of Charity. When you consider the that the word Charity, from what I have read and discussed with others means to not only give something to someone who is in need at the current moment, it also means to help a person find the knowledge a person needs to survive. In different words (paraphrased) – “If

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

you give a person a fish, you will feed him for a day; but, if you teach a person to fish, you will feed him for a lifetime.” In more modern translations the word ‘love’ is substituted for “charity” that is used in the King James Version. The word Loves is a rather fuzzy word in English, in Greek there are eight words for love that our single word in English represents. In this instance, we could agree the word Love refers to agape love, or selfless love.

After doing much research on my impressions of Christianity. I found it to be very complex, yet simple enough for a child to understand. This sounds like a contradiction, but I will assure you it is not. The teachings of Jesus are just plain common sense if you understand them; yet He also understood what is beyond the veil, which I will explain in the section on the Spiritual Reilm and the Natural Reilm.

Throughout this document are verses that I relate to the Christian Worldview. I know there are many more that I could have selected. Many scholars could have selected other verses, but I did the best I could. Many denominations of Christian Churches have different opinions on what the Christian World View is, rather than do a survey of what different denominations believe, I decided to do my research from history and compare it to what I found to what is written in the Bible. I hereby present my opinion as to what the Christian Worldview should be. I am not asking anyone to agree or disagree, I just would like for you to consider where and how I arrived at my selections of verses.

There are places where there are criticisms of the history of the Catholic Church, I will admit that I am leery of the past and present leadership of not only the Catholic Church, but also the leadership of Protestant Churches. Churches give their members lots of spiritual inspiration. Almost all by friends are Christians. None of my criticisms are directed at any individuals living today. I question the national and international leaders of churches. I believe they are too highly influenced by politicians who are opposed to Christianity.

The discussion in the various chapters represents many of the thought processes I went through in developing the paper. When I first discussed the writing of the paper with Pastor Tom Brown, I thought the paper would take about three pages. Any paper on the Christian Worldview must have a comparison of what is in the Bible and a knowledge of the world today.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Chapter 1 – The Foundations

Whence Came Us and Whither Can We Go

The keys to understanding the potential power of mankind are found in the second and third chapters of Genesis and the fourteenth chapter of John. We will also discuss Jesus' greatest commandments. Let us first consider verses from Genesis.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **15** And the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:²³ Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. **24** So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Who was “us” in **Genesis 3:22**. I believe it was angels. Was it bad that Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of life? I don't believe so because in Genesis Chapter 2 Verse 15, man's job was to take care of the garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve were “kicked” out of the Garden, they were sent out to find their potential. The angels found they could no longer contain their creation in the Garden of Eden.

I believe we need to step back to go outside of our box. Zechariah Sitchin wrote a series of seven books called the Earth Chronicles. The first book in the series was called the 12th Planet. In the book he talked about translating the ancient Sumerian tablets. He admitted that his translation did not agree with translations of conventional archeologists. Throughout the book he demonstrates how his translation agrees with the Bible. What he does not agree with is the timeliness promoted by many Biblical scholars. He proposed man was created by angels about 300,000 years ago. In his book he called angels the Nefilim. One of them was named Enki or Ea (both names are used interchangeably), his wife's name was Ninki.

Their idea was to produce a lowly primitive “Man” to work the fields of the Garden of Eden because the Nefilim did not like to work. They created man by taking the blood of an ape and mixing it with clay and some of their own blood. she bore the newly created “Man” in her womb until he was born.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

All the Sumerian texts assert that the gods created Man to do their work. An explanation uttered by a Nefilim named Marduk: I will produce a lowly Primitive worker. "Man" shall be his name. He will be charged with the service of the gods, that they might have their ease. The very terms by which the Sumerians and Akkadians called "Man" bespoke his status and purpose: He was a lulu ("primitive"), a lulu amelu ("primitive worker"), an awilum ("laborer"). That Man was created to be a servant of the gods did not strike the ancient peoples as a peculiar idea at all. In biblical times, the deity was "Lord," "Sovereign," "King," "Ruler," "Master." The term that is commonly translated as "worship" was in fact avod ("work"). Ancient and biblical Man did not "worship" his god; he worked for him. No sooner had the biblical Deity, like the gods in Sumerian accounts, created Man, then he planted a garden and assigned Man to work there: And the Lord God took the "Man" and placed him in the garden of Eden to till it and to tend it. To quote from the book, the 12th Planet:

The assertion, first recorded and transmitted by the Sumerians, that "Man" was created by the Nefilim, appears at first sight to clash both with the theory of evolution and with the Judeo-Christian tenets based on the Bible. But in fact, the information contained in the Sumerian texts can affirm both the validity of the theory of evolution and the truth of the biblical tale and show that there really is no conflict at all between the two.

I don't completely agree with the quote, the conflict between the two is that mankind did not accidentally evolve as the theory of evolution assumes. The theory of evolution cannot explain the "missing link." But Zechariah Sitchin demonstrates why there is no "missing link" and why the Bible is correct.

God said "Behold, the man is become one of us." Throughout the bible, angels are discussed. In my interpretation of this phrase, the term 'us' refers to angels or "Nefilim" who assisted God to create man. Angels realized man knew the difference between good and evil but retained many of his primitive traits. This is demonstrated throughout the Bible, beginning with Cain killing Able. The book of Judges appalls me, it demonstrates man's primitive nature in many of its stories. Solomon was a very wise and intelligent man, but his many wives and concubines demonstrates a primitive nature. I believe the women he married had to do with treaties and agreements he made with foreign counties. Some of the things we do in the twenty-first century are primitive such as promoting war and not understanding the nature of mankind that leads to war. I will discuss this further in another section.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

It is interesting to note the number of verses in the Bible that refer to fire in the sky and angels. In the Appendix is a page titled: “Verses of Fire from Heaven, Angels, and Miscellaneous Verses.” These were verses assembled over the last few years just because they fascinated me. You may interpret them as you will. Discussions on the various aspects of their meanings will always prove to be fascinating.

In Jeremiah’s letter to the exiles, his prediction in Jeremiah 29:10 ¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.”

What was to be completed, were the Jews sent back to go through the Sumerian tablets? I do not know, but this has always mystified me. A good explanation is found in **Hosea 2:16** the Jews had to be purified during their Babylonian captivity. Perhaps the prediction also had to do with the fall of Babylon and the rise of the Persian empire. I am under the impression that the Kings of Persia, Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great, were religious within Zoroastrianism. They were responsible for sending the Jews, who wanted to go, back to Jerusalem to build the second temple.

The angels realized man had great potential and let us also realize that that Jesus knew we had even greater potential than he realized. An explanation of this is in the 14 chapter of John specifically in the 12th verse: “¹² Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” Jesus was trying to tell us that we have great potential.

These are lessons Christians have not been able to teach, partly because man still suffers from his primitive background. Man’s primitive nature displayed itself in recent years by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the complete chaos in big cities making it difficult for businesses to operate. Many large department stores must lock up merchandise to stop looting. An objection to the advancement of humankind to the industrial age is found in references from the ‘The Conversation.’ Humankind passed the point of no-return into industrialization three hundred years ago. Although at the beginning of the industrial revolution we had a good spiritual and ethical foundation in which to advance upon. In the twentieth century we lost this spiritual and ethical foundation that I will discuss in the section on *Modern Liberalism, Modern Conservatism, and Classical Liberalism*.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

The spiritual Realm and the Natural Reilm

In the fourth chapter of John, we read about Jesus meeting the woman at the well and how he psychically knew about the woman's past and present. This demonstrated Jesus had knowledge of the spiritual realm. He could know things that others could not see.

The following is taken from the Reference YRM. Many Christians are afraid to discuss the spiritual realm. Contrary to what many Christians believe, the Bible has much to say about the Spirit World where Yahweh dwells. According to 1 John 1:1 Jesus came down to the physical world to manifest Himself to mankind. Fear of the spirit world exists because it is associated with demonic or satanic activities and fallen angels. In Jude 6 warns us to be alert. In 1 Peter 5 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour... Being ignorant of Satan can work harm to the Christian who is striving to withstand temptations. Paul warns that the real battle on Earth is spiritual in all aspects of our lives associated with our mind, demeanor, beliefs, and worship.

Some do not believe in the spirit world, but we may do simple experiments that we may prove that more exists than what is seen. In an experiment a professor had students repeat the name of another student in another class repeatedly several times. Soon the student in the classroom began to wiggle and started to look around as if someone was calling him. Another example is if you stare at another person from behind, soon that person will suddenly turn around to look at you. Sometimes when a loved one halfway around the world gets into a desperate situation you will know the person is in trouble.

Christians must be able to identify false prophets (**Matthew 7:15-20**), this also requires education. An example of false prophets is progressive Christianity that is leading Christians astray. Galatians 1 states: "6 marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preaches any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Included under false prophets are Ouija boards and the paranormal because they are sources of evil demons that put people at great risk. (<https://paranormalauthority.com/ouija-dangers/>)

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

There exist three levels of heaven, the first is where the birds of the air fly, the second is where the sun, planet, and stars exist. The third is where Yahweh exists. It is the realm of energy that permeates all nature throughout the universe. This level of heaven consists of pure energy, we cannot see it just as we cannot see other levels of energy such as magnetism, gravity, or the flow of electrons. According to Paul in the third chapter of Ephesians

⁹ And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: ¹⁰ To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, ¹¹ According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: ¹² In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

In the first chapter of Colossians, we find the following:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

The third heaven consists of Yahweh and many other beings both good and evil. These spirits can be all about use. Angelic beings from time to time appear to humans such as the three angels who appeared to Abraham on the plain of Mamre in Chapter 18 and 19 of Genesis. Two of these angels proceeded onto Sodom, where they destroyed the city.

Einstein proved that time does not exist without matter and that matter can be created from energy and vice versa. Our savior, after his crucifixion and resurrection, would appear to the disciples even if they were in locked rooms (John 20). He could appear and disappear at will (Luke 24). Jesus described heaven in several places as a place unlike Earth in which we become as angels (Matthew 22:30, John 18:36, 11 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Romans 1:4).

We should not take mind altering drugs or overuse alcohol because they will open us up to the evils in the spiritual world and cause us to lose sight of the good in the world. When we pray, we should address our prayers to something like one of the following: 'Our Heavenly Father,' 'Our Lord Jesus Christ,' 'The Great Architect of the Universe,' so that our prayers may be directed to the good in the spiritual world.

Below are passages from the Bible on spiritual world:

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

1 Corinthians 2:12-3:3

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the ^[a]Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

³ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and ^[b]behaving like mere men?

Romans Chapter 8 is a very good chapter about the Spirit World. Verses 38 and 39 are presented here, but I recommend you read the entire Chapter.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Chapter 2 – Foundations of Christianity

The Morning Star

Matthew 2:2 “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” One author that I consider to be rather unreliable because in his book he promotes a case against Christianity. He believes it to be a rehash of the Mithra Religion. I believe him to be one of the less respected Masonic authors, but he did lots of research to create his book. (Knight, beginning on page 29) He theorized the star was Venus and Mercury during a conjunction that happens once every 480 years (called the Shekinah). This would have put Jesus’ birth at 8 B.C. I only mention this to stimulate thought. The last time this conjunction happened in the same location in the sky was when the Constitution of the United States of America was signed. I tried to confirm when the conjunctions of Venus and Mercury occurred over the past two millennia, but Google would not comply. (Perhaps I should have logged into one of Astrology Websites where they have magnificently detailed charts of the planets to confirm his argument.) I had trouble googling verses pertaining to Jesus as the bright morning star that is discussed below. Google kept pointing me to Isaiah 4:12 that Satan is the bright morning star, which is not true; I will explain shortly.

Venus is a planet that appears in the morning 9 out of 19 months. For this reason, it is generally referred to as the morning star. Other planets may appear as morning or evening stars such as Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter, but Venus is generally brighter. Venus is more consistent. Venus will go behind the sun for about 50 days, when it cannot be seen, it will then appear as the evening star. Venus has a 584-day cycle in which alternately appears as a morning star, goes behind the sun to disappear for about 50 days, and then appears as an evening star 263 days. Venus appears to go backwards (or retrograde) in the sky for about 40 days while it is the evening star, before it goes behind the sun again.

The morning star is referred to as Hope. When Venus rises, it means that the sun is about to rise. The rising a Venus also signifies the second coming of Christ. It also means that God’s light will shine forever in the universe. In several verses in the New Testament, Jesus referred to himself as the bright morning star.

The 13th and 14th chapters of Isaiah is about the fall of Babylon, Isaiah 14:12 refers to Babylon falling, the verse likens Babylon to Satan. Many misinterpret this verse as saying Satan was the bright morning star that fell from grace. Jesus said several times that he is the bright morning star. When we see the morning star, we should think of Jesus and pray to him.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Revelation 22:16: “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

2 Peter 1:19” And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention has to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...”

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Jesus

Revelation 22:16: “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” **John 8:12** “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” **2 Peter 1:19**” And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention has to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...” **John 3:21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:16-17 states: ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Thus, according to verse 15, anyone who believes in Him shall have eternal life in Him.

On the Website history.com we find the Jews never said Jesus did not exist. They considered him to be a magician and that he led people astray. Very few people who live contribute the archaeological records of their time – something like 99.99% do not contribute. The fact we can find no archaeological records of a person’s life does not mean anything. Archaeologists have been able to corroborate certain stories in the New Testament. They found evidence of Roman crucifixions such as the ones Jesus described.

The life of Jesus and his death was corroborated with Jewish and Roman historians. Flavius Josephus was born a few years after the death of Jesus in 37 AD. He was around when the first church was getting started and he knew people who had known Jesus.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

In one passage in Jewish Antiquities is a passage of an illegal execution of James, the brother of Jesus, who was called the Messiah. Jesus first appeared in the *Annals of Imperial Rome* that was written by Tacitus, a Roman senator. Tacitus knew Emperor Nero had falsely accused Christians of doing major crimes. Jesus was known by historians of his day. Jesus was not made up.

An account of the execution of Jesus by Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, and the Sanhedrin. No other trial in history has had such a lasting influence upon human history according to research done by Professor Douglas O. Linder writing in the Website Famous Trials. I recommend you read this account. Professor Linder's research proves that trial and crucifixion of Jesus happened no matter what the detractors of the Christian Faith may claim.

Detractors of the Christian Faith may say the crucifixion was just a rehash of the stories of Mithra (Reference: Knight) who lived 600 years before Jesus in present day Iran and the stories of Isis, Osiris, and Horus in ancient Egypt. Both Mithra and Horus were born on December 25, and both Mithra and Osiris were killed and brought back to life. It is interesting to note December 25 birthday in the stories - it just followed down from one God or Savior to another! Remember we have historical accounts of Jesus from Tacitus and Josephus.

I have had discussions with friends who had studied Caesar Constantine, he was a member of the Mithra religion. He brought together Christians from all over the Roman Empire so he could learn how to rule them. He directed the collection of the books of the Bible. It is questionable if he ever converted to Christianity.

We will review a few quotes from Jesus in the Gospels.

In **Mark 12**, we read ²⁹“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’^[a] ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^[b] ³¹The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[c] There are no commandments greater than these.” These same quotes are also in **Matthew 22:36-40**

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Matthew 9:17 Jesus, “Neither do men put new wine into old bottles; else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.” In this case bottles referred to skins that grape juice was fermented in. Old skins would not have the flexibility to allow the fermentation process to act, the wine would be lost. This is an analogy referring to new Christians. Let us refer to **1 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” Thus, the new Christian begins to grow internally to new beginnings. **Romans 12:1-2** gives a different perspective. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

These verses show not only how the Bible can not appear simple, but it is also very deep for those who look below the surface. Here are two quotes from Saint Jerome: The Scriptures are shallow enough for a babe to come and drink without fear of drowning and deep enough for a theologian to swim in without ever touching the bottom." Another way of stating this is found in the book by Robert Elsner is the section about the writings of John the Evangelist that can also be applied to the teachings of Jesus: “One description of the writings of John are that they are shallow enough for a baby to wade in, and deep enough for an elephant to drown in.”

I hear people say that the teachings of Jesus are very simple, these are people who do not look below the surface. Do not argue with such people, please do not ask them for advice either. It means they are very shallow and not worth your time.

[Parables and the Sermon on the Mount](#)

I consider it very sad that the teachings of Jesus are relegated to religious studies. Jesus’s teachings could be the basis of discourses on values and ethics. Too many companies and other organizations have had problems defining ethics, and yet if some of the teaching of Jesus could

The Christian World View

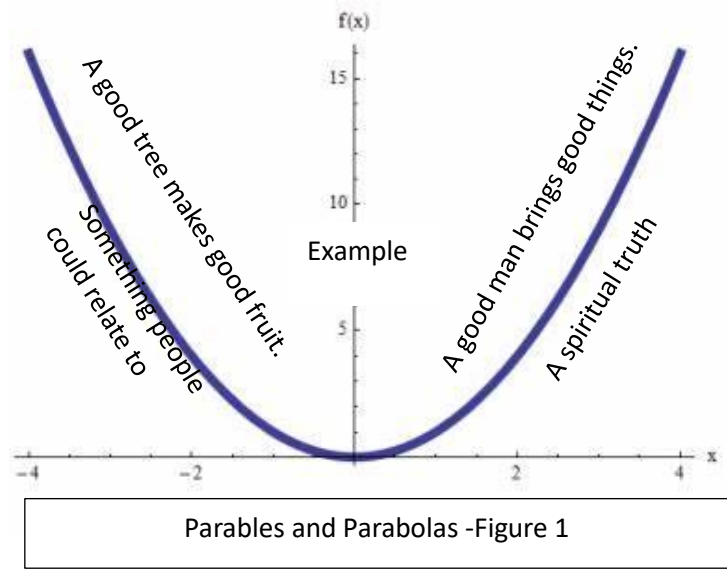
Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

be elevated professionals and executives could be much better

prepared. Somehow Christians need to elevate the teachings so that they are not just in Churches. Perhaps Christians need to remove Christianity from the cover of being a religion. Christianity needs to become a Philosophy of Christian Living. To read and study the teachings of Jesus is a constant duty of all Christians. The greatest of these is to “love your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength.” The second is

to “love your neighbor as yourself.” (**Mark 12:29,39** and **Matthew 22:36-40**) The Sermon on the Mount contains the best foundation for the Christian Faith.



The parables are written in such a way as to start from concepts people understood in their everyday life and compare them to a spiritual truth. They contain invaluable wisdom for those who have the mindset to understand them. They appear to be just stories to those who do not have the necessary mindset as Jesus explained in Metthew.

Matthew 13: ¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”
¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive.

¹⁵ For the hearts of these people have grown dull.

Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

So that I should heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

A list of a few of Jesus' parables are:

- Contracts (parable of the Vineyard) (**Matthew 20:1-16**)
- Managing failure in business (also known as the shrewd manager) (**Luke 16:1-9**)
- Investing – The Parable of the Talents (**Matthew 25:14-30**)
- Building on a solid foundation, Parable of the wise and foolish builders (**Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:47-49**)
- the Persistent Widow and Crooked Judge
- (**Luke 18:2-8**)
- Letting your light before the world that they may see your good works (**Matthew 5:14-16, Mark 4:21-22, Luke 8:16**)
- Repairing old garments with new cloth, do not use old wine skins (**Matthew 9:16-17, Mark 2:21-22, Luke 5:36-38**)
- Planting in good soil, parable in the four types of soil (**Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:3-20, Luke 8:5-15**)
- The Lost Sheep (**Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:3-7**)
- Parable of the Unforgiven Servant (**Matthew 18:23-31**)

Let us discuss three parables from a practical viewpoint. A more detailed explanation is found in a copy of an article I had previously written that is in the Appendix. The first is found in the 20th chapter of Matthew. It has to do with a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. He goes out early in the morning, agrees with them for a wage for a day's work and sends them in to vineyard. Later in the day at the eleventh hour he finds others and sends them into the vineyard. At the end of the day, he has his steward call the laborers beginning with the last. He gives those who arrived later the same as what was agreed to by those who were hired first.

Those who were hired first supposed they should receive more, but they received what was agreed to that that morning. The point is that the landowner only paid what was agreed to. What the landowner did later in the day did not change the original agreement. The property owner claimed he could do with his own as he saw fit meaning he could give to the last as he gave to the first.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

A parable in the 16th chapter of Luke talks about a business owner who accused his manager of not collecting for wheat and olive oil sales at the time of purchase. The manager realizes that he had done wrong, but that he would not be able to work as a laborer if he was fired. The manager contacted his customers and told them to pay what they could. The owner saw that the manager was reforming, so he forgave him. The parable is about failure and the ability to come back from failure.

Another parable in the 25th chapter of Matthew talks about a man travelling to a foreign country. He gave three servants money to invest. He gives one five talents (a talent might have been worth about \$3000 in today's money). The second servant was given two talents, and the third one talent. The first two servants invested their talents, the third buried his. When the man returned, the first two had doubled their respective moneys. The third dug up his talent and gave it back to the rich man. The first two were richly rewarded and given great responsibility. The third received nothing. The parable is instructions to not to be afraid to invest that you currently do not currently need.

These teachings need to be in the consciousness of mankind to create a better world order based upon solid ideas. Books on ethics and values, need to be influenced by a solid foundation based on the teaching of Jesus. Ethics and values need to be based upon a law that we should love one another.

[The Writings of Paul versus James](#)

This is a good time to discuss the writings of Paul and James. Many consider the writings of Paul and James to be contradictory. An extensive article by Mark D. Ellison of BYU published an article explaining why these two do not contradict each other. James believed our actions demonstrate our faith. Our actions need to be in alignment with what we say. James did not oppose Paul; he opposed the idea that faith was passive. Paul believed we receive the blessing of atonement by faith. The new covenant is that we live by the gospels. Actions speak louder than words. One of my favorite verses is:

James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

The book of James offers us a path whereby we may distinguish between those who are true believers and those who have a ulterior agenda by observing if their rhetoric and actions agree. Is this a reason some do not like the book of James?

The actions and works of Christians must agree with what is taught. **2 Timothy 2:5** says if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. Paul said he disciplined his body and brought it into subjection, lest, when he had preached to others, he should become disqualified.

I believe the term 'works also has to do with spreading the word of Jesus in addition to other things you do for God. The vine John speaks about is the network we create as we spread the word.

Common Sense Teachings of Jesus

I surveyed a Few commonsense Teachings of Jesus from an elevation of 6,300 feet above sea level in Eastern Arizona. These are as follows:

A Few Commonsense Teachings of Jesus	
Love one another.	We should have a lifetime of learning.
Do unto others as they should do unto you.	Be wise with your money and investments.
To love God, you must also love your fellow creatures. What you do to your fellow creatures, you also do to God.	Forgive those who trespass against you, realize neither you nor others do not lead a perfect life. Forgive others as you would expect to be forgiven.
Realize you do not lead a perfect life, mistakes are made; when you ask for forgiveness, you must also turnaround to reform yourself to lead a better life.	Be generous with others. Generosity not only means assisting others with their present needs, but it also pertains to giving people what they need to lead a productive

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

A Few Commonsense Teachings of Jesus	
Your words, actions, deeds, and works should agree. Our actions, deeds, and works set examples for others to follow. Actions, deeds, and works speak louder than words.	life. For this reason, you should also be generous with your knowledge. (Give a person a fish, he can eat for a day; teach a person how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.
If someone slaps you over a minor infraction, turn the other cheek; but always have a sword ready for defense. (If you do not have a sword, sell your cloak, and buy one)	

Baptism and Holy Communion

The ritual of Baptism is necessary for Christians to dedicate their lives to walk and act in Christian values. (**Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:19 Luke 22:20, and 1 Corinthians 11:24-26**)

The ritual of Holy Communion from time to time is necessary for Christians to publicly confess that they are not living a perfect life, that they make mistakes, and they are re-dedicating themselves to walk and act in Christian Values. (**John 6:53-58**) The term repentance comes from a Greek word, *metanoia*, which means to turn around. You must not only ask for forgiveness, but you must always change your ways. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Psalm 133 discusses baptism as the Dew of Hermon. God forgives our sins, but we must dip, immerse, dip oneself, wash, plunge, sink, drench, overwhelm. To Jews it symbolized repentance and renewed Humility. There are reminders in the scriptures that as we sin, we must repent and worship God. Christians consider baptism to be the outward washing that symbolizes the inward regeneration by the holy spirit. Baptism of infants is a pledge of parents to raise children in the ways of the Lord. Baptism of older children, teenagers, and adults is a pledge by the person to live a Christian life.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

The ordinance of Holy Communion is given in the following verses: **Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25 , Luke 22:19 Luke 22:20 , and 1 Corinthians 11:24-26**. According to the Website Bible Study Tools (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-communion-and-why-is-it-celebrated-differently.html>), Holy Communion is taken for the following reasons:

1. To commemorate the death of Christ: "This we do in remembrance of me."
2. To signify, seal, and apply to believers all the benefits of the new covenant. In this ordinance Christ ratifies his promises to his people, and they on their part solemnly consecrate themselves to him and to his entire service.
3. To be a badge of the Christian profession.
4. To indicate and to promote the communion of believers with Christ.
5. To represent the mutual communion of believers with each other.

John 6:53-58 refers to Holy Communion. The bread represents the Body of Christ and wine, or juice, represents the Blood of Christ in this passage:

"So, Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." The ritual of Baptism is necessary for Christians to dedicate their lives to walk and act in Christian values.

The ritual of Holy Communion from time to time is necessary for Christians to publicly confess that they are not living a perfect life, that they make mistakes. It is a ceremony to re-dedicate themselves to how they walk and act in Christian values. **Romans 7:18** states: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Here Paul acknowledges that he lives a sinful life.

John the Baptist preached repentance and virtue. According to Robert Elsner in his book listed in the references in the section on John the Baptist, he says the Greek word for repentance is

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

metanoia. The word means to turn around. Thus, repentance means not only to ask for forgiveness, but it also means to change your ways.

According to Carey Nieuwhof there are three things that Christians do that irritate non-Christians:

1. Christians have an integrity problem. Christians judge other people.
2. They can be hypocritical. They say one thing and do another. Recommended solutions: Watch what you say, don't pretend you are something you are not, and humility. When you admit shortcomings, you can build a bridge.
3. very few Christians actively pursue friendships with people who do not share their faith. Interaction between Christians and Non-Christians are situational and observational. Non-Christians may observe Christians at work to draw conclusions about how their words and actions do not agree.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians." Your Christians are so unlike Christ."

Remember Jesus was highly criticized because he had meals with tax collectors Who were considered unsavory people. Sometimes Christians should not be afraid to make friends with non-Christians as long as you stick to your beliefs and set a good example.

Thus, I believe, this will help us to understand why we need to ask for forgiveness – so that we may influence others to the Christians virtues, not only by our words, but also by our actions, deeds and works.

True Christians are Disciples of Christ

According to Parsons, pastors have failed to teach that we are disciples of Jesus, there is no difference between a Christian and a disciple of Christ.

John (I Am the True Vine) 15

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

James 2

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Chapter 3- Christianity

Faith

To me faith means that there is a divine presence within us that we can tap into. It should be your constant guide through life. **Hebrews 11** is all about faith, I direct you to read the chapter. Faith is very important to Christians; we cannot know everything we need to know; we must be able to tap into a higher power. Matthew 17:20 states that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could move mountains.

Faith is knowing that we have a divine presence within us that we may follow; Hebrews 11:1 has been one of my favorite verses even before I knew it was from the book of Hebrews:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is a most important principle of Christianity.

Matthew 17:20 is also about faith:

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

I once worked with a mill manager. Working with him on a one-on-one basis he was very good to work with. Occasionally when someone ticked him off in a morning meeting, he could start going about the room in a very unapologetically crude manner remind each person of their duties and responsibilities. When faced with a decision that needed to be based upon incomplete knowledge, such as hiring decisions, he had confidence he would be correct. He understood how to read people, which was one of the major reasons he was successful. He was a manager who turned around a mill that had not been profitable into a very profitable mill because – he was willing to take the bull by the horns without fear. I believe that was when those of us in management started receiving bonuses. I do not know what he believed, spiritually or if he even attended church, but I know he understood faith. I think he had a faith that could move mountains. Perhaps this is a poor example, but the mill manager made an impression upon me.

The following are 23 verses about faith.

1. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

2. For we live by faith, not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7**

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

3. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**
4. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **James 1:6**
5. And without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6
6. Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” **John 11:40**
7. “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” **Mark 9:23**
8. Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **James 1:3**
9. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **1 Peter 1:8-9**
10. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 21:22 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” **John 11:25-26**
11. For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. **1 John 5:4**
12. Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. **Romans 14:1**
13. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. **1 Timothy 6:11**
14. “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. **Mark 10:52**
15. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **1 Corinthians 13:2**
16. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13
17. Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” **John 6:35**
18. I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. **Psalms 119:30**
19. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. **Romans 10:10**

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

20. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. **Hebrews 11:11**

21. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **James 5:14-15**

22. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” **Romans 1:17**

23. And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matthew 17:20

To paraphrase John 3 verse 18-20: People who do not believe in Him stand to be condemned because they are walking in darkness. Their evil deeds cause them to keep themselves in the darkness; they are afraid of the truth and the light because they fear their deeds will be exposed.

In the 13th verse of 1 Corinthians “13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Charity not only means giving what a person needs in the present moment; Charity also means giving a person knowledge he needs to live a productive life.

Love and Marriage

Research found on the **average** there is not much difference in personality traits between men and women. The operative word here is ‘**average**.’ Men tend to display more extreme behaviors in personality traits. A person I used to know liked the following phrase: “If you had one hand in hot water and the other hand in freezing water, on the average you would feel good.” The following table is from the University of Sydney and from Psychology Today:

Men	Women
Are more extreme at the behavior spectrum: Very selfish or very altruistic Very trusting or very distrusting Very fair or very unfair	Better at recognizing facial expressions such as disgust.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Very risky or very risk averse Very long-term or very long-term focused Greater male variability in cooperation	Women could detect contaminations in their environments better – a response to protecting children
Men are much more competitive	
Reducing extreme behaviors need to be directed more toward men	
Reported more loneliness early in life	Reported more loneliness later in life
Men spent more time watching television, practicing a sport, attending cultural events, or hosting events	Women are much more involved in raising children
Men more likely to speak in the abstract	Women speak using more specifics
At age 9, both girls and boys demonstrated low levels of neuroticism, boys showed more decline in the trait over time	adolescents exhibited higher levels of conscientiousness

From an article by Walt Larimore, men and women complement and strengthen each other. There are great difference in the way that the brains of men and women work, partly due to hormonal levels and hardwiring. As men show their wives more love and affection, wives are more willing to respect and admire him. He is then able to give more love and affection to his wife.

I find my wife and I complement each other in many ways.

- Although we were married long after we were of childbearing age, we have had as many as three dogs. Our relationship with our dogs are different. She likes to hold the dogs to give them affection, whereas I like to show affection to them by petting and playing with them.
- Another example is when we decided to landscape the yard, I was much better able to the heavy work such as moving large amounts of dirt, topsoil, digging holes and planting. She was much better able to design the yard and select plants, although I did have input in the

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

selection. We decided upon decorative pear and cherry trees, a blaze maple, rose bushes, among many other plants. Julia is much better at observing when plants need water and are having trouble with aphids.

- We used to like to travel together. For example, one time we decided to travel up the coast of California and Oregon, and through Washington, to visit her daughter in Tacoma. On the way we selected to spend a few days visiting wineries in Sonoma, California. I wanted to attend a meeting in Coos Bay, Oregon to see friends there. We had a great time in Tacoma and toured Seattle. On the way back we spent a couple of days in Sacramento, California.
- She has her interests and hobbies and I have mine. We have supported each other in our respective interests. For example, she was on the Mainstreet Committee in Show Low, I would assist her in work the committee did such as building a welcoming wall in downtown Show Low. When the committee sponsored a Vans and Bands event that used food vans and various bands from the community to raise money for the committee to make improvements around the city, I assisted her in the evening after I had assisted with a large BBQ during the day.
- Julia has been assisting me through my ordeal of dealing with kidney failure by watching my diet and driving me to and from dialysis appointments.

There are several Bible verses in the Walt Larimore article:

Philippians 2:3-7: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Ephesians 5:25-28 KJV Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:33: Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverences her husband.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

1 Peter 3:7: Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Totis 2:4-6: That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

In the Appendix is a passage is from the Website BibleGateway.com about love, marriage, and sex from the Song of Songs book of the Bible. Christian tradition has followed Israel's example in using marriage as an image for the relationship with God. This image is found extensively in the New Testament (**Matthew 9:15; 25:1-13; John 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelations 19:7-9; 21:9-11**). Thus, the Song has been read as a sublime portrayal and praise of this mutual love of the Lord and his people. Christian writers have interpreted the Song in terms of the union between Christ and the Church and of the union between Christ and the individual soul, particularly in the writings of Origen and St. Bernard.

Friendship and Fellowship

To sooth the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortune, to compassionate their misery, and to restore peace to their troubled mind is the great aim we have in view.

The most important concept about Christianity is that it promotes love and friendship among people. We should use the teachings of Jesus as the shining light to guide our lives. His teachings are as valid today as when he lived, they can help guide us through all aspects of our lives. Christianity promotes fellowship not only among fellow Christians who have a strong relationship with God, but also with all people. It teaches how to live a good moral life.

There are many verses about Fellowship, too many that may be listed in this brief document. Fellowship is also important to the Christian Faith. Here are a few quotes on fellowship: **1 John 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." **Hebrews 10:25** "Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing nearby." **Proverbs 27:17** "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Christians need not fear to associate with those who do not believe the same way they believe. Christian need to set good examples to others – in their words, actions, deeds, and works. Our actions and works testify to our beliefs. Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana said your actions are what you believe, all else is cottage cheese! We may be saved by grace, but by grace we are put here to do good work and to spread the good word to all mankind. **Matthew 5** ¹⁶ “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” “All people are known for their works. Our faith is reflected in our works.” (**James 2:14-17, Matthew 5:16, James 2:18, Colossians 3:23-24**) Our words and actions need to match. We cannot say one thing and do another (this is a major complaint non-Christians have of Christians.) But do not make friends with those who are hot-tempered, easily angered, or wicked. A righteous man is cautious in friendship (Proverbs 22:24-25, Proverbs 12:26) The way of the wicked leads people astray.

Quotes on Friendship - Friendship is very important to the Christian Faith
1 Proverbs 18:24 "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
2 Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."
3 John 15:12-13 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
4 Job 16:20-21 "My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as one pleads for a friend."
5 Job 42:10 "When Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes, giving him twice as much as before."
6 Proverbs 27:9 "Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel."
7 Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"
8 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."
9 Romans 12:10 "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."
10 Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
11 Proverbs 16:28 "A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends."

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Quotes on Friendship - Friendship is very important to the Christian Faith
12 1 Peter 4:8-10 "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
13 Proverbs 17:9 "One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend."
14 Ecclesiastes 4:10 "If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."
15 Job 6:14 "Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."
16 Ecclesiastes 4:9 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."
17 Proverbs 27:10 "Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away."
18 Proverbs 22:24-25 "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared."
19 Proverbs 12:26 "A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."
20 Galatians 6:2 "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Table copied from Palmer.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Benefits of being a Christian (Jolly-Miller):

The reference Jolly-Miller lists many benefits of being a Christian. The list is copied from the Jolly-Miller reference:

- Wisdom and discernment in a complex world.
- A standard for service above self.
- A belief that God can use all situations for a greater purpose.
- Peace and comfort in times of trouble and confusion.
- The constant presence and opportunity to commune with God.
- Forgiveness of past and future sins.
- The gift of eternal life in heaven
- Abundant life and healing on earth
- Adoption as God's son or daughter
- Authority over sin and evil
- A sense of community and love with fellow believers.

At times of death, despair, or distress you may find verses in the Bible. The Gideons have bibles which will direct such verses to you. Below are list of sights that may direct you to such Bible verses. You can even find verses about freedom., I am sure you may find many more categories of verses for your needs at various times. These are also listed in the References.

Bible Verses for Times of Death, https://www.openbible.info/topics/our_time_of_death,
retrieved 10/30/2023

Bible Verses on Despair, <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Despair,-Description-Of>,
Retrieved 10/30/2023

Bible Verses about Distress, <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Distress>, retrieved
10/30/2023

Bible Study Tools Staff, 07/01/2021, Freedom Bible Verses, Bible Study Tools,
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/freedom-bible-verses/>,
retrieved 10/30/2023

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Top Bible Verses on Strength

Philippians 4:13 ~ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Isaiah 40:31 ~ But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 41:10 ~ Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Ephesians 6:10 Matthew 5:39 ~ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Exodus 15:2 ~ The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. 1 Chronicles 16:11 ~ Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! 2 Timothy 1:7 ~ For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. Luke 6:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Luke 22: 36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. To me this means that you should not sweat the small stuff, but you need a sword for defense.

Should Christianity be Considered a Religion?

Christianity should not be thought of as a modern-day religion; instead, it is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. So much of what Jesus taught is just plain common sense, yet His teachings are rejected by people who refuse to pay attention. Christians should study the Bible on their own, form their own opinions with the assistance of learned pastors and other Christians whom they can trust. Learned people well versed in the teachings of Jesus and the Bible are very important to Christianity. Of course, this is a good reason to attend a Bible based church where you will meet educated pastors and laypeople who are well versed. Colossians 2 states:

From the reference Sanderson, Martin Luther was outspoken about the religious of the Roman Catholics in his day. He is quoted as saying "I have often said that to speak and judge rightly in this matter we must carefully distinguish between a pious (religious) man and a Christian." One of the problems of Martin Luther's non-religious Christianity was that it refused to confront, it left prewar Germany open to Nazism. We must follow the teaching of Jesus and stand up to what is not right.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

The 14th Chapter of John gives insight ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you. ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

What I am opposed to that I discussed previously is many denominations accept modern liberalism as their guiding principles. In the section on ‘Modern Liberalism, Modern Conservatism, and Classical Liberalism’ the distinction between modern liberalism and classical liberalism is made. Classical liberalism, or the liberal ideas that the founding fathers us to create the American Constitution gives us firm foundation whereby we may practice the teaching of Jesus. Modern liberalism is opposed to the foundations of classical liberalism that promotes freedom of speech, private property rights, freedom of religion and so forth. It is highly influenced by communism. Galatians 5:10 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” The yoke of bondage is the bondage from sin that causes us to turn away from many of the teaching of Jesus. Ephesians 6 states:

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

I am opposed to is some of the modern ideas of Christianity that are promoted by such people as Oprah Winfrey. The reference Bancarz points out that they believe in a Christianity that does not hold you to moral values or to the teachings of Jesus. If this is a version of modern-day religion, then I am opposed to it. There are many teachings in the Old and New Testaments that are invaluable to daily living. The teachings of the moral values of Christianity should be a part of the education of all people. Our actions and works should match our words that should be in alignment with the teachings of Jesus.

The Ministry of Reconciliation in II Corinthians 5 ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.[b] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Chapter 4- Education

Education

Education is very important for all Christians. Christians must have a lifetime of learning into everything they are interested. Christians should assist parents monitor children's education. Adults must be able to understand the rhetoric used by politicians and ministers who are trying to mislead them. Too many times Christians just buy into what is being said, thus they buy into much evil in the world.

Freedom is an inalienable right given to those who have proper education and ethical standards to maintain it. We must use our freedom and our property in the service of God. (**James 1:25, 1 Peter 2:15-16**)

Humankind has greater potential than those Jesus processed (**John 14:12**), a proper education is very important. Christians must assist parents to monitor the education of children and assist wherever necessary to assist them to find their greatest potential. (**Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 29:17**)

In an article published in the Times of Israel on May 17, 2023, a claystone tablet had been recently excavated from the pilgrim's path in Jerusalem. It contained accounting records from an individual. It was an indication that there was widespread literacy in ancient Israel about 2000 years ago. Words were carved in simple cursive script into a flat claystone slab that had been taken

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

from a nearby ossuary. It included the name Shimon that was a typical name in Israel followed by the Hebrew letter mem which was used to represent a measure or economic value. Other legible lines represented letters or symbols followed by the letter mem. The letter resh was also found on the tablet that stood for 'quarter.' The tablet was used to represent what happened in daily life in the area.

An article about Carpentry in Ancient Rome titled Craft, Industry & Technology in Ancient Israel. The research found that craftsmen were the best educated in ancient Rome because they were taught by their fathers. Craftsman could not go to the local Ace Hardware to buy a T-square, they had to understand mathematics. The Romans did not trust higher mathematics, craftsmen had to learn it from their fathers or on their own. The point I am trying to make here is that parents need to take an active interest in their children's education. I have listened to many Christian ministers describe Joseph and Jesus were uneducated, I believe that like other craftsmen in ancient Rome they were self-educated and received much knowledge though rabbis through their synagogue. They may also have been members of the Essenes where they would have received much instruction and interactions with others.

Not all will agree with my comment that parents should be involved in their children's education, an article on how the American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU) is secretly waging war on American family. An article in the Washington Examiner on May 5, 2023, states that "If the ACLU is successful, parents will no longer have a role in their children's lives on the most sensitive and critical topics a child may confront on critical matters including abortion and genital-mutilating surgeries," Heritage Action for America Executive Director Jessica Anderson told the *Washington Examiner*." The ACLU is declaring war on the nuclear family. Christians should very quietly do everything possible to undermine the ACLU.

Bible verses pertaining to education are as follows:

- **Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- **Ephesians 6:4** And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up (nourish them) in the discipline (training, nurture) and instruction of the Lord.
- **Proverbs 29:17** Correct your son, and he will give you comfort, He will also delight your soul.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Many stories in the New Testament demonstrate the importance of family and having a trade. But there are stories in the Bible that demonstrate how people fell short such as in a book that was given to me about twenty years ago titled David that I have since misplaced. The book made the point that David did not nurture his children. Thus, he had two sons who attempted to take the throne— Absalom and Adonijah.

I know from personal experience how communication skills are important. When I graduated from college, about a half century ago, I had difficulty writing reports. After several complaints from my boss, I began to improve. Participating in meetings, both at work and outside of work improved my communication skills. I have heard how many other college graduates have similar challenges.

Parents need to be involved in developing communication skills in children from the moment they are born simply by reading to them when they are young and by communicating and discussing things with them as they get older. In the next section we will dig deeper into education. An important point is that children should be educated in the core subjects of reading, writing, and arithmetic. People should have a lifetime of learning in whatever direction they desire to study. Freedom is given to those who have proper education and ethical standards to maintain it ((James 1:25, 1 Peter 2:15-16). We must have a proper education that includes the study of the Bible, the trivium, and the quadrivium.

The Trivium and Quadrivium

Freedom is an inalienable right given to those who have proper education and ethical standards to maintain it. We must use our freedom and our property in the service of God (**James 1:25, 1 Peter 2:15-16**).

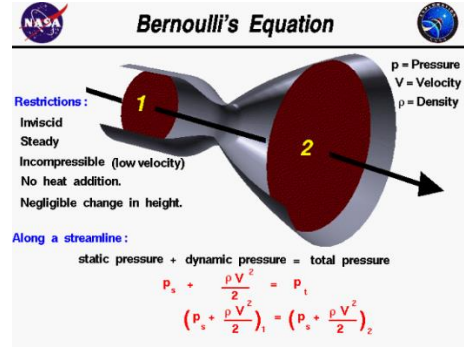
Hillsdale College has a good article on its Website promoting its course on the trivium (trivĕəm) and quadrivium (kwä'drivĕəm). In this case the Trivium is not a heavy metal rock band in Orlando, Florida. The trivium is the study of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Grammar is the proper use of languages. Logic is reasoning using the strict principles of validity. Rhetoric is using language to create persuasive arguments, either written or oral. We will discuss the quadrivium and then circle back to rhetoric in more detail. The quadrivium is the study of arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Arithmetic is a branch of mathematics pertaining to numbers and their manipulation. Geometry not only has to do with the study of shapes, but it is the foundation of higher mathematics. The work of Isaac Newton and many others such as the

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Bernoulli brothers developed applications of higher mathematics for practical applications. These people brought us into the industrial revolution. A good example is the Bernoulli equation that gave us a knowledge of fluid dynamics, shown in a graphic. The work of Albert Einstein brought us into the modern age of spaceflight and gave us a better understanding of the



universe. In the Appendix is a section on Famous Scientists who were Christian. These Christian Scientist brought about the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution was brought about by Christians who believed they could use their faith to bring about better living conditions.

Mathematics also gives us an understanding of music, its rhythms, and vibrations. Astronomy gives us an understanding of the universe we live in. In the references is an article about what the ancients knew about motion of the moon and planets that I had written back in 2021. The title of the article is “The Antikythera Mechanism and the Cycles of the Moon and Planets.” According to the article, in 1902 divers went down to check a sponge boat that sank in a storm in 1900. They happened to find a wrecked Roman cargo ship that had an instrument attached to a statue. In the 1950’s an analysis found the instrument was from 70 BC. It could calculate the motion of the sun and moon and predict eclipses. A replica of the device was later made. The article demonstrates how advanced the ancients were in some respects.

Rhetoric

I recently ran across a very good article on rhetoric by Taylor Nauta. Rhetoric is the art of speaking eloquently and the art of using words effectively. Rhetoric is an artform composed of three modes of persuasion:

- Ethos is a method to gain the trust of an audience. For example, an attorney may impress a jury with his credentials.
- Pathos appeals to emotion.
- Logos is an appeal to the logic of the audience.

To paraphrase a quote in the article there is nothing less Christian than to cause division among people especially among Christians themselves. Subversive tactics are used by demigods to

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

deceive people and to divide and conquer for personal gain. These demigods include corrupt politicians who put different groups against each other.

One hundred percent of all wars were caused by greed and thirst for power. Politicians cannot fight wars without armies, they must use rhetoric to convince the masses that their cause is right. Propaganda is their first tool. Thus, politicians on both sides have promoted the idea that Christians were on their side. They make it appear that wars are caused by Christians fighting among themselves. Dehumanizing rhetoric deceived ordinary Germans to believe absurd stories about the Jews. Similar rhetoric caused Americans to believe Indians and blacks to be less than human.

Christians today must understand what has happened in the past, unite to stand up against demigods who are doing so much damage to our society. Power-hungry politicians have always used Christianity, racism, sexism and currently the environment as a cover. Christians must be able to recognize different forms of rhetoric politicians use to lead people astray.

On the positive side, in an article by David Mislin of the Cambridge University Press, discussed how during World War I, how Protestants, Jews, and Catholics united to provide pastoral care and last rights to soldiers. This is a great example of how we need to come together. It just demonstrates how religious people of the various denominations of Christianity and even other religions need to unite for common causes.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Chapter 5 – Influences on Christianity

The Protestant Reformation

The Khan Academy had a good article on the Protestant Reformation. Please pay close attention to the words PROTESTant REFORMation. It was a protest to reform. Popes lived more like kings, they claimed both political power and spiritual power, made treaties, made enemies, and even made war. The corruption of the church was well known. Martin Luther was monk and a professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther begins his protest over the indulgences that were pieces of paper the Roman Catholic Church filed stating the person had donated to certify he would go to heaven.

Pope Leo X was selling indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Johann Tetzel was selling them near Wittenberg. Martin Luther believed that one could go to heaven by faith alone. The Roman Catholic Church believed one could go to heaven by works alone. Martin Luther had many other complaints. He posted his "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This incident and the invention of the printing press taught people that they did not need the intermediary of the Pope and the Catholic Church to know God. Many denominations of protestant churches were forming throughout Europe.

Communist Influence upon Christianity

The CPUSA (Communist Party of the United States) realized that the United States could not be brought to socialism. To bring the United States to be brought to communism, its religion would have to be harnessed. Communists started infiltrating churches, seminaries, theological colleges even before the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. In July 1953 before a Congressional committee Ben Gitlow, a former CPUSA chairman, described how Dr. Harry F. Ward (15 October 1873 – 9 December 1966) established the first communist front in the USA – "The Methodist Federation for Social Action" in 1907 (<https://www.mfsaweb.org/>, you may check out this communist front group for yourself and how their objective is to stir up trouble). Its objective was to transform the Methodist Church and Christianity into an instrument for socialism. A Manning Johnson testified how the Kremlin had shifted its emphasis from destroying religion in the United States to co-opting it. It was a great tactic because the communist front gained contact information for ministers all over the country. It was discovered that the destruction of religion could proceed much faster by infiltrating it. Beginning in the 1930's communists were encouraged to rejoin the churches that had dropped their memberships. Thus, the CPUSA was able to take control of

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Christianity in the United States at every level. The attack by communists took a two-pronged infiltration tactic – through the clergy and through communist led laymen.

The infiltration of churches is something I have understood since I was a child. It is my opinion communists have encouraged churches to become more and more extreme in different directions to keep them from unifying. Although the various denominations have been a strength of Christianity, the communists within churches have been pressing these differences to extremes. At the bottom of this section are two tables: the first compares why Christianity to Communism is not compatible. The second table lists a couple of experiments in communal living. Voluntarily entering communal living is acceptable. But the Russia, China, and other communist countries have killed millions of people of various religions because they were not acceptable to their political designs, this is unacceptable.

A challenge Christians have today is the definition of hate speech by such organizations as Facebook as found on the Open Learn Create Website. The Hate Speech Guidelines On Facebook

We do not allow hate speech on Facebook because it creates an environment of intimidation and exclusion and in some cases may promote real-world violence. We define hate speech as a direct attack on people based on what we call protected characteristics – race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, caste, sex, gender, gender identity and serious disease or disability. We also provide some protections for immigration status. We define "attack" as violent or dehumanizing speech, statements of inferiority, or calls for exclusion or segregation.

I found on google, a member of Finland's parliament is facing her second trial for simply quoting scripture about marriage on Twitter (X). Please see the article by Rumpf-Whitten.

To eliminate the communist influence, Christians from all denominations need to unite to undermine the influence of the communist front groups at all levels that have been leading the Christian faith astray. I did not understand the details, nor specifically how the Methodist Church was involved. I know there are good people and ministers in the Methodist Church, not everyone is promoting the left-wing policies. Several years ago, I suddenly realized how ridiculously "liberal" the church was becoming. Christians need to form their own group to start evaluating what is being taught in seminaries and churches. Their objective should be to take Christianity back. The group should focus upon the Philosophy of the Christian faith whereby they can identify

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

the communist influence. The group needs to identify ministers they can trust who can assist them. A minister at my church mentioned to me how many churches in our local are attempting to study their difference to come closer together in the teachings of Jesus.

Comparison of Christianity and Communism (Marxism)	
Christianity	Marxism
Rooted in theism, all about God	The State is viewed as God
Christians appeal to a higher authority	There is no higher authority than the state
Private Property is very important to Christianity	Private property must be eliminated
The work ethic and accountability work so people may support themselves	Redistribution of Wealth destroys accountability and the work ethic
About spiritual things	About material things
Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:26)	Seek first man's kingdom and the stuff of this world
Looks to the Lord to establish a heavenly, perfect kingdom some day	Utopia is earthly and man-made
Mankind has unlimited capabilities that can be developed through belief and education	Mankind accidentally 'evolved' through a process of evolution – mankind can be improved through AI implants.

Experiments in Communal Living
The pilgrims in the new world tried communal living, no private property, all food was equally distributed. It was found to be a complete failure, because some would not provide their fair share of labor.
Acts 2:44-45 describe an experiment where everyone in a community voluntarily combined their property to live in a communal environment. Other communities did not adopt his way of living. The verses in Acts were not prescriptive, but descriptive.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Chapter 6- How the Bible should influence Governance of Countries Comparison of Ancient Times to Modern Times

Please read through the passages from 2 Chronicles and Jeremiah that are below. We read in the book of Jeramiah the prediction he made about visiting the Jews in Babylon after 70 years. We read from **2 Chronicles 36** the misuse of prophets.

Jeremiah 29:10 King James Version “For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.”

We read in **2 Chronicles 36:11-17**

Zedekiah as one and twenty years old when he begin to reign, and reigned for eleven years in Jerrusalem.¹²And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. ¹³And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁴Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

¹⁵And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: ¹⁶But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. ¹⁷Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

It is amazing how this passage compares to modern times. How leaders are not humbling themselves before God, how the chiefs of the priest and people are transgressing toward the abominations of the heathen. None are humbling themselves before such prophets as Franklin Graham and a few others. Franklin Graham may be the closet we have today as a modern-day prophet as exists today.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Christians and Governments

1 Peter 2: ¹² Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; ¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. ¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: ¹⁶ As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

This passage puts Christians in a very difficult position in modern times. It states that Christians should obey civil laws. Many times, these civil laws vary from one country to another. During war the best Christians have been able to do is administer to spiritual aid to soldiers. Below are a few examples of how civil laws conflict with the teachings of God and Jesus.



After the compromise of 1877 that declared the reconstruction period over after the American (un)civil war to be over. Black people in the south thought they would have a chance for equal rights under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. This ended when the supreme court ruled in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 that blacks were to be separate plus equal.

Woodrow Wilson in his presidency promoted the Ku Klux Klan and oversaw the segregation of the federal workforce, the 28th president helped to erase gains African Americans had made since Reconstruction. Wilson wrote a textbook praising the Confederacy and the Klu-Klux-Klan. He also rolled back the economic process made by blacks since the end of reconstruction. Black ownership of homes in the District of Columbia fell because few blacks had access to federal jobs. Wilson was the president who took us into World War I at the time that the teachings of God and Jesus no longer had influence. Woodrow Wilson was a god-less man, in my opinion, who took us into the first world war. My opinion extends to Franklin Roosevelt, who found his economic policies were not working, took us into the second world war. These two men could not see that their socialist ideas were not working, so they took us into war either with or against other socialist governments. The wars anti-humanitarian.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Several months, in mid-2023, ago a Canadian paster was facing ten years in prison for assisting trucker to block the American Canadian border. His son speaking before the European Parliament received raucous applause. He was pleading for international support for his father to avoid prison time. The pastor claims he is being punished for reading the Bible because it is hateful and not inclusive.

Classical Liberalism

The Constitution of the United States of America was based on classical liberalism. Many who opposed slavery and who wanted equal rights for women were classical liberals.

In 1776 most people believed rights emanated from the government. People accepted whatever rights the government granted them. This was classical conservatism where the King ruled. John Locke and Thomas Jefferson changed this perception through their writings. They believed that people had rights outside of government. They believed the only legitimate purpose of government was to protect individual rights. Below is a comparison of Modern Liberalism versus Modern Conservatism and Classical Liberalism in the United States of America.

Let us obtain knowledge about Classical Liberalism. Classical liberalism had its foundation in the industrial revolution. Classical liberalism foundations are:

- Natural rights for individuals
- Limited government
- Capitalism
- The rights of individuals to invest their own wealth.

Classical liberalism inspired:

- The overthrow of King James II in England
- Influenced the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution (1776–1783)
- Later, it inspired thinkers to reflect on the forms of government that best prevent governmental abuse of power.
- it inspired the right to vote that has evolved over time.

Classical liberalism was revolutionary during the time of the industrial revolution, which was not supported by Royalty who believed it would create a large middle class that could undermine their power. Classical liberalism did bring forth the means whereby individuals would have a voice government. Today Classical liberalism is considered “Conservative Ideas.”

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Modern Liberalism

Let us now consider the foundations of Modern Liberalism. Adam Weishaupt, a professor of law at the University of Ingolstadt in Bavaria, started a student society called the Order of *Perfectibles* on May 1, 1776. It was just one of many such fraternities on college campuses at this time. In 1778, he changed the name of his order to the Order of Illuminati. In this Order, he gave students grades, and there were signs and passwords. He had synonyms for people and places. Bavaria was Greece, Munich was Athens, Weishaupt was Spartacus.

In 1780, the Order received a recruit - Baron Adolf Franz von Knigge whose alias was Philo. He began to transform the order with his doctrine, such as political states were unnatural and perverse to be replaced by mutual respect and love. He thought everybody could just be happy.

In 1785, the Illuminati was suppressed by the Elector of Bavaria, this suppression only gave the Order credibility. There were spine-chilling tales that began to circulate about its occult aims such as its ultimate objective was to conquer the human spirit.

The Club des Jacobins was a French offshoot that rose out of the Illuminati. The Jacobins used their pursuit of knowledge and advancement of science to create more destruction, to attack religion and society, and to spread atheism, impiety, and vice. The word “monstrous” was used to describe them in the book. Later the Jacobins started calling themselves “liberals.” In the early 1800’s when Napoleon wanted to conquer a country, he would call in these “liberals’ to disrupt countries and governments with the objective of weakening the country. Does this sound like what is happening today to bring about a One-World-Order?. Need I remind you of the chaos occurring in large cities today?

Some of the Stated Objectives of the illuminati were:

1. The abolition of all private property and inheritances.
2. An end to patriotism and nationalism.
3. The abolition of family life and marriage, together with a commitment to ensure children are educated in a communal manner.
4. An end to all organized religion.

They believed the ends justify the means. The Illuminati wanted to undermine equality and liberty to return man to primitive rights.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Although The Order of Illuminati did not last as an organization much after the death of Weishaupt in 1830, his the Illuminati's ideas continue to persist today particularly in the writings of Karl Marks, in communist governments, in universities, and in many today who call themselves liberal. (some call themselves progressive

Modern Liberalism, Modern Conservatism, and Classical Liberalism

Comparison among Modern Liberalism, Modern Conservatism, and Classical Liberalism

Modern Liberalism versus Modern Conservatism and Classical Liberalism in the United States of America			
Concept	Modern Liberalism	Modern Conservatism	Classical Liberalism
Speech	Speech is becoming very restrictive. For example, you must use proper pronouns.	Restrictions on thought that restricts freedom and porn are encouraged.	Freedom of speech
Selling services and products	Places restrictions on rights to sale services on the free market	Right to sell to the public with few restrictions.	No restrictions
Retirement income	Government right to control it.	Social security is a Ponzi scheme. Need to investigate how to improve it	Not considered
Rent control	Government has right to control who you rent to and for how long	Rent controls place undue burdens on property owners	Freedom of property owners to manage their property as they deem necessary.
Inheritances	Not allowed, everything should go to the state	Allowed, but with taxes for larger inheritances	Encouraged

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Modern Liberalism versus Modern Conservatism and Classical Liberalism in the United States of America			
Concept	Modern Liberalism	Modern Conservatism	Classical Liberalism
Execution of criminals	No executions in any conditions	In favor of criminals who committed monstrous murders	Should follow the constitution in charging criminals
Government	Government should be large and all-inclusive to control all aspects of society. Government should be on the federal level with state with local government conforming to the federal directives. People are accountable to government.	Government should be small. Its major functions are the defense of the nation, protection of individual rights, settling conflicts between people, and promoting individual liberties. Government should primarily be on the local and state level.	Government should be small. Its major functions are the defense of the nation, protection of individual rights, settling conflicts between parties, promoting individual liberties. The federal government should be accountable to the various states and to individuals.
Sex and marijuana	No government control. Aggressive LBGTQ regulations on all government agencies and businesses.	Marijuana is a mind-altering drug. Sex should not be allowed in public	Not considered
Founding Fathers of United States of America	Founding fathers were slave owners and evil	Revere founding fathers	Although many founding fathers were slave owners, they inherited slavery from their families and were finding ways to

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Modern Liberalism versus Modern Conservatism and Classical Liberalism in the United States of America			
Concept	Modern Liberalism	Modern Conservatism	Classical Liberalism
			eliminate slaves through changing of laws. It was illegal for slave owners to free slaves
Racism, Manmade Global Warming, etc.	Topics used to create discontent and undermine order in society	Topics are under discussion; people are on various sides of argument	Not considered

The major issues today are individualism vs collectivism. Do individuals have the right to pursue their own happiness as Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence declared were self-evident. Modern politics are dominated by modern liberalism and modern conservatives that are more sociologies rather than ideologies. Neither modern liberalism and modern conservatism are entirely collectivist or individualist. Modern politics are based upon a smorgasbord of political concepts that are often not coherent. Classical liberalism is based upon liberty.

The 19th century was generally influenced by classical liberal ideas, it had relative price stability, international peace [the America (un-)civil war was in internal conflict], and unprecedented economic growth. The 20th century rejected classical liberalism, it was subject to dictatorships, wars, and depression. almost 265 million people were killed by their own governments; this does not include people killed in wars nor people killed by the manmade covid pandemic.

In the 20th century all forms of collectivism rejected classical liberalism.

- For communists it was the needs of the class (proletariat) against individuals.
- For Nazis it was the needs of the race against individuals.
- For the fascists (Italians) and for the welfare state it was the need of society has a whole.

For these ideologies individuals must live for the state.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

In modern conservatism, almost everything good, economic liberties, come from classical liberalism. Although in modern liberalism, civil liberties come from classical liberalism, it has been pushing civil liberties such as shoplifting and living on the streets to unreasonable levels. Those who oppose have their freedom of speech, such as the vagrant use of curse words, are restricted. Modern liberalism is even trying to regulate the pronouns we use. Any words that contain 'man' in it such words as 'mankind' is construed to be sexist. Modern liberalism is pushing us to a more primordial state. The teachings of Jesus raised humankind from its primordial states. We are going backwards. Can you understand why there is a big push to remove classical literature and even Bibles from libraries?

Shockingly many modern churches lean toward modern liberalism. Thus, in my opinion, this is a major reason their membership is declining. I remember many of my relatives left the United Methodist Church over 50 years ago because the church was too "liberal." Churches need to return to a more classical liberal (or modern conservative) stance. Some churches are slowly seeing the light, for example, over 6,000 congregations in the United Methodist Church have left this church using LGBTQ concerns as the primary reason. Please see my comparison of modern liberalism, modern conservatism, and classical liberalism on the next page.

Matthew 7:15-20 tells us to be aware of false prophets. Matthew 7 ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. ²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Revelations 2 and 3 are about those who will overcome:

Revelations 2 ¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. Revelations 3

⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. ⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

name. ⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man takes thy crown. ¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. ¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

When I was young the passages of Revelations disturbed me. Hearing about how churches would turn away from God and to the Devil. I wondered how this could happen. Now it is obvious that the devil is Modern Liberalism. It is also necessary to note that we are known for our works. Please see the section below on the Communist Influence Upon Christianity. At the bottom of the section is a table that compares Christianity to Communism and why they are not compatible.

Private property

Private property is an important topic in the Bible that deals greatly with boundary marks, giving restitution to those who have been defrauded.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

- **Deuteronomy 19:14** says, “You shall not move your neighbor’s boundary mark which the ancestors have set...”
- This injunction is repeated in **Deuteronomy 27:17**: “Cursed is he who moves his neighbor’s boundary mark.”
- **Proverbs 22:28** says, “Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set.”
- **Proverbs 23:10** warns, “Do not move the ancient boundary or go into the fields of the fatherless.”
- In the New Testament, Jesus reiterates some of the Ten Commandments including, “Do not steal,” to the rich young ruler (Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20).
- After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus promises fourfold restitution to those he has defrauded (**Luke 19:8**).
- In Romans, Paul argues that the eighth commandment is part of what it means to love your neighbor as yourself (**Rom. 13:9**).
- In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, Paul lists habitual thieves as those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. Paul clearly states, “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need” (**Ephesians. 4:28**).
- Even the controversial passage in **Acts 2-5** is no exception. In this instance, the early believers retained private property while voluntarily sharing what they had through what seems to have been a temporary arrangement.

The Hoover Institute offers insight into private property rights. Aristotle in the Republic pointed out that common ownership in property led to a reduction in responsibility. It is difficult for people to realize they need to put managing public property as their responsibility. People can understand managing their own property is necessary. Communities are composed of people with highly varied sets of values. Although some will argue that service is a motivator, many people only understand their own self-interest.

Garrett Hardin, in an essay, believe that collective ownership leads to the tragedy of the commons. He gives an example of land used by several members of the community to raise cattle. Even if everyone understands the limits, there would be people who would exploit the situation to cause ruin to the common land. Examples of the tragedy of the commons are the \$33 trillion national debt and the very large homelessness populations in big cities – many of whom are mentally ill.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

This is an indication we need better leadership. This is an example of how top-down leadership from a few elites trying to maintain power by whatever means does not work for the nation.

John Locke defended private property rights and how they should be allocated. It must be determined if, in the situation, private property rights are mortally necessary. Determination must be determined who owns what, otherwise the tragedy on the commons could take place. Private property ownership in most cases will encourage owners to care for the land they own.

How do you access private property rights without conflicting with the rights of others? John Locke gave the example of a person gathering wood. He was working within nature. Therefore, the wood is his because he put his own labor into gathering it. In another example, suppose a person, named George, finds some unowned land. He decides to make improvements. If he builds a house on the property, thus putting his labor into it. Is the property his? I think so.

Marx and Engels were two people who did not believe in private property. They based their book, *The Communist Manifesto*, on the assumption that factories could reduce wages to bare minimums. What Marx and Engels missed was that the customers of factories were its own workers; That as wages increase, that demand for its production increased.

A classic example of why Marx and Engels were wrong is Henry Ford in 1914, who increased wages from \$3 for a nine-hour day to \$5 for an eight-hour day. This enabled his employees to afford the cars they made and it reduced employee turnover. Thus, it also helped Ford Motor Company.

Here is a list of side notes for the record:

- Marx and Engels also believe in highly progressive income taxes, but it has been proven that highly progressive income taxes reduce living standards, while lower taxes help to increase living standards of employees.
- Marx and Engels also wanted to put an end to nationalism. This idea has not worked. So effective was Nationalism in the early twentieth century that France and Germany were able to enlist 80% of males into uniform. Socialists met in Brussels at the end of 1914 to determine they could do nothing to stop the trend. They were impotent.
- Marx had famously called religion the ‘opium of the masses.’

Matthew 10: 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. ³⁴ Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace,

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

but a sword. ³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. ³⁷ He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. ³⁹ He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Jesus knew he could not control human nature. The socialist meeting in Brussels did not realize they had no control over the wars that were about to happen.

John Locke

During the American Revolution, the writings of John Locke was the second most quoted. The Bible was the most quoted. Christianity failed to uphold its most revolutionary tenants – the freedom and equality of every soul. Locke believed people are born free and independent; that freedom was a divine right. That people should respect their neighbors of life, liberty, and private property. Locke was appalled by both protestants and Catholics to impose conformity through force. He believed every man should find religious freedom through his conscience. Ministers should model and teach peace and goodwill to everyone. He warned that if government was governing other than the preservation of persons and their property, then the government would become tyrannical. He believed in the adoption of the Golden Rule in government.

Modern liberalism arose in response to the failures of Christianity. Progressives seek to expunge universal rights from government and replace it with social entitlements. In consequence we have every man in war against his neighbor. The American revolution had its foundation the concepts of Locke. The renewal of the concepts of the American Revolution must find its place in the religious ideas that gave it birth.

The adoption of the secular concepts of social entitlement by churches is a signal that they no longer promote individual rights. I do not know if it is possible to return churches to concepts of universal rights, but it should be up to individual Christian to understand these rights.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

2 Corinthians 3 :17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

The Earth

Humankind was made in the image of God and angels. People were sent into all parts of the world to care for it. (**Genesis 3:23**) Private property is very important to assist man care for the world we live in (**Acts 2:5**) The earth is the densest planet in the solar system. The amount of minerals, vegetation, and other living creatures on earth is amazing. According to Popular Science the Earth has over 10,000 different minerals. We have been given a planet with everything we need to survive and flourish. We were not put here just to live like the other animals. We must learn how to utilize what the Earth has to offer by working within the limitations of nature and keeping a clean environment.

Here are passages from Genesis:

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: ²³Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Some of the most damage to the earth has been in the development of nuclear weapons. Governments have done a very poor job of protecting the environment in these cases. Yet governments are attempting to tell private corporations how to clean up the environment. This is a case of incompetent people attempting to lead us. Please remember the expression “I am from the government, and I am here to help!” I do not know what to do about this situation, but I am sure that Christians should be in the forefront of solving this dilemma.

My father was educated in forestry. He worked with the forest service to thin forests for the purpose of supplying a papermill with pulpwood. He would travel all over central eastern Arizona to sites where loggers he had helped finance would harvest pulpwood. In the 1960's my brother

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

and I, in the summer, would travel with him. It was an education, seeing how the forest could provide pulpwood and sawlogs while at the same time protecting the forest.

After I graduated from college and started working in technical services for a paper mill, I maintained an interest in forest management. One day in the 1990's I had an opportunity to attend a public hearing at Northern Arizona University in the college of forestry. A professor of forestry, who had done lots of research in forest management determining what would work and would not work, made a fantastic presentation. Then a guy wearing sandals and sloppy clothes got up; he represented some "environmental" group. His whole point was that man could not do anything to manage forest. He clearly stated that the above verses from Genesis were false. I realized the environmental movement was not pro-environment, but anti-Christian.

I also had the chance to go to Washington, DC with a group to talk to senators and representatives. It was very discouraging because they would politely receive us, but they did not want to listen to us. Otherwise, we had a good trip and had a chance to take a late-night tour of Washington, DC. The trip was not a complete failure.

The point is that Christian must be able to identify fakes. The environmental movement has been an anti-Christian movement. Many in the Catholic Church in the time of Martin Luther were not promoting Christianity, they were promoting their own evil ends.

[Promoting Better People in Government](#)

Christians need to encourage responsible people to enter government for a short time and have others waiting to take their place. We need people in government who know what is going on in society. We need to constantly promote the idea that political leaders need to take leave of absences from their private life to enter government for a few years and return to their private life. We need to form Christian based organizations to understand government, raise money for our candidates, advertise for them, do all the dirty work of rejecting lies and things we do not believe in. This is the only way we could ever get responsible people to get responsible people such as Jamie Dimon of the JP Morgan Chase to run for office while he takes a leave of absence for a few years as CEO.

Christians are to pay due obedience to laws and regulations of the country under whose protection they live. (Romans 13:1-14, 1 Peter 2:12-14) Christians need to influence who is elected to government. They need to be involved in promoting good people to the various levels of

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

government. First Christians needs to focus upon its beliefs and remove the secular influences that undermine Christianity.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

The Christian World View Summary

Jesus was the bright morning star, not Satan. Isaiah 14:12 has been misinterpreted. Revelation 2:16, John 8:12, and 2 Peter 1:19 quote Jesus as saying he is the bright morning star.

Communication skills are the most important skills people must have.

Men and women complement in their personality traits and make each other stronger. Marriage should be between one woman and one man.

Parents need to monitor the education of their children and assist in their education where possible. Christians need to help parents monitor the advancement of children as they advance and assist children in subjects where schools fail.

Modern liberalism has had dire influences upon the twentieth century; it has caused wars and political tensions, depressions, millions of people being murdered by their governments in many parts of the world, and intense hate among groups of people. – obviously modern liberalism does not teach us to love one another as Jesus tried to teach us. Too many churches have bought into the concepts of Modern Liberalism.

Private property is very important for the advancement of mankind. Without private property mankind is subject to the tragedy of the commons where no one is responsible.

Writings from the historians Josephus and Tacitus prove that Jesus existed.

The teaching of Jesus needs to be elevated from religious studies to the foundation for ethics training. Jesus had great examples for investing, managing businesses, and following contracts and many other topics in his parables. His parables have valuable lessons that we can learn from today, they have withstood the test of time. He believed we should build on a firm foundation in all we do. His teachings need to be presented to the public without mentioning the Bible. These teachings need to be out into the consciousness of mankind to create a better world order based upon solid foundations.

The divisions of Christianity into its various denominations represents its biggest strength and its biggest weakness. On one hand the various denominations attract people of different viewpoints that makes Christianity the largest religion in the world. On the other hand, the various denominations prevent Christians from having a unified voice in society. Anti-religious

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

organizations, such as environ-MENTAL groups, can criticize Christianity without anyone presenting a unified argument against them. Some Christians may somehow disassociate themselves from all the influences of the various denominations to become a Philosophy of Christian Living to assist Christianity to become more united on national and international levels. They need to present a unified argument to the world against anti-religious groups. The differences between the various denominations on the local levels could remain in place.

Christians need an understanding how the writings of Paul and James align. The Book of James offers a method whereby Christians may distinguish between true believers and those who have ulterior motives by determining if their rhetoric aligns with their actions.

One hundred percent of all wars were caused by greed and thirst for power.

The Earth is the densest planet in the solar system that has over 10,000 different materials, many of which are very useful to mankind. Mankind must learn how to use what is available on Earth for his needs while working with nature and keeping a clean environment. Mankind is not expected to live like animals scavenging for food and shelter.

I believe that psychics are not respected today and have been misused over the last couple of thousand years. Is it because those who have been misleading us do not want to be found out? I think so. Christians comply because they do not want to be considered superstitious. They reject passages in the Bible pertaining to prophets, which I believe represents psychic activity, while proclaiming the Bible is true. This is a conflict in reasoning. Christians need to reevaluate what they believe about the paranormal if only to protect people from the use of Ouija Boards.

Some of the most damage to the earth has been in the development of nuclear weapons. Governments have done a very poor job of protecting the environment in these cases. Yet governments are attempting to tell private corporations how to clean up the environment. I do not know what to do about this situation, but I am sure that Christians should be in the forefront of solving this dilemma.

Christians need to encourage responsible successful people to enter government service at least for a few years and then return to their professions. Others need to be in line to take their place. We do not need people to campout in government for 50 or 70 years. We need people going in and out of government service who understand society in whatever country they live in.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

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Frank Edens

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The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Appendix

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Verses of Fire from Heaven, Angels, and Miscellaneous Verses

Below are verses I accumulated over the past several years just out of curiosity. The represent verses that could make for interesting discussions and arguments.

Exodus 13:. After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

2 Kings 2 King James Version (KJV)

2 And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Ezekiel 1 King James Version (KJV)

1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

2 In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

6 And everyone had four faces, and every one had four wings.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

11 Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

Ezekiel 10 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Glory of the LORD Leaves the Temple

10 Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, [a] in appearance like a throne. 2 And he said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim and scatter them over the city."

And he went in before my eyes. 3 Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. 4 And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD. 5 And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

6 And when he commanded the man clothed in linen, "Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim," he went in and stood beside a wheel. 7 And a cherub stretched out his hand from between the cherubim to the fire that was between the cherubim and

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed in linen, who took it and went out. 8 The cherubim appeared to have the form of a human hand under their wings.

9 And I looked, and behold, there were four wheels beside the cherubim, one beside each cherub, and the appearance of the wheels was like sparkling beryl. 10 And as for their appearance, the four had the same likeness, as if a wheel were within a wheel. 11 When they went, they went in any of their four directions[b] without turning as they went, but in whatever direction the front wheel[c] faced, the others followed without turning as they went. 12 And their whole body, their rims, and their spokes, their wings,[d] and the wheels were full of eyes all around—the wheels that the four of them had. 13 As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing “the whirling wheels.” 14 And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was a human face, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

15 And the cherubim mounted up. These were the living creatures that I saw by the Chebar canal. 16 And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them. And when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them. 17 When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them, for the spirit of the living creatures[e] was in them.

18 Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

20 These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the Chebar canal; and I knew that they were cherubim. 21 Each had four faces, and each four wings, and underneath their wings the likeness of human hands. 22 And as for the likeness of their faces, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the Chebar canal. Each one of them went straight forward.

2 Chronicles 7 Fire from Heaven

1Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. 2And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

house. 3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Revelation Chapter 41 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

1 Timothy 5:21 . 21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

Isaiah 40:22 New International Version (NIV)

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

Amos 9:6 It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.

Read these two verses, what you do is very important. You are not saved by works, but you are saved to do works.

Ephesians 2:7-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James 2:22

22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

“Are not the angels ministering spirits, sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”

John 3: ³¹The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God[□] gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.

– Hebrews 1:14

Angels are the trusted messengers of God. They deliver God’s word.

“Bless the LORD, you His angels, mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!”

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

– **Psalm 103:20**

These heralds of God are often charged with delivering the news, visions or signs of something that is about to happen or will happen in the future.

Angels warns Joseph about Romans killing the first-born males

After the birth of Jesus, Herod the Great, who the Romans had appointed as King of the Jews, was going to order his soldiers to search for and kill all of the first-born male children in the vicinity of Bethlehem. Herod had been told by the Magi about the birth of a new born King of the Jews and was worried that he could lose his throne.

An angel informed Joseph to flee Bethlehem with Mary and the baby Jesus so that Jesus would not be killed.

“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up!” he said. “Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him.”

– **Matthew 2:13**

An angel delivers the revelation of Christ to John

An angel of God delivered the revelations, or prophecies, of Jesus Christ about what was to come to the apostle John in order for him to deliver these messages to mankind.

The angel delivered visions to John. Jesus Christ was the author. The apostle John wrote down what he saw giving us the biblical New Testament book of Revelation.

“This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon come to pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who testifies to everything he saw. This is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

– **Revelation 1:1-2** The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Famous Scientists who were Christian

The following list is copied from the website: <https://www.famousscientists.org/great-scientists-christians/>

[Robert Boyle](#) 1627 – 1691.

Said that a deeper understanding of science was a higher glorification of God. Defined elements, compounds, and mixtures. Discovered the first gas law – Boyle's Law.

[Antoine Lavoisier](#) 1743 – 1794.

A Roman Catholic believer in the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures. A founder of modern chemistry; discovered oxygen's role in combustion and respiration; discovered that water is a compound of hydrogen and oxygen.

[Leonhard Euler](#) 1707 – 1783.

The son of a Calvinist pastor. Wrote religious texts and is commemorated by the Lutheran Church on their Calendar of Saints. Published more mathematics than any other single mathematician in history, much of it brilliant and groundbreaking.

[Michael Faraday](#) 1791 – 1867.

A devout member and elder of the Sandemanian Church. Discovered electromagnetic induction; discovered the first experimental link between light and magnetism; carried out the first room-temperature liquefaction of a gas.

[James Clerk Maxwell](#) 1831 – 1879.

An evangelical Protestant who learned the Bible by heart at age 14. Transformed our understanding of nature: his famous equations unified the forces of electricity and magnetism, indicating that light is an electromagnetic wave. His kinetic theory established that temperature is entirely dependent on the speeds of particles.

[Gregor Mendel](#) 1822 – 1884.

A Roman Catholic Augustinian abbot. Founded the science of genetics; identified many of the mathematical rules of heredity; identified recessive and dominant traits.

[Arthur Compton](#) 1892 – 1962.

A deacon in the Baptist Church. Discovered that light can behave as a particle as well as a wave, and coined the word photon to describe a particle of light.

[Ronald Fisher](#) 1890 – 1962.

A devout Anglican: made religious broadcasts and wrote religious articles. Unified evolution by natural selection with Mendel's rules of inheritance, so defining the new field of population genetics. Invented experimental design; devised the statistical concept of variance.

[Bernhard Riemann](#) 1826 – 1866.

Son of a Lutheran pastor. A devout Christian who died reciting the Lord's Prayer.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Transformed geometry providing the foundation of Einstein's theory of general relativity; the Riemann hypothesis has become the most famous unresolved problem in mathematics.

[Georges Lemaître](#) 1894 – 1966.

Roman Catholic priest. Discovered that space and the universe are expanding; discovered Hubble's law; proposed the universe began with the explosion of a 'primeval atom' whose matter spread and evolved to form the galaxies and stars we observe today.

[Isaac Newton](#) 1643 to 1727.

Passionate dissenting Protestant who spent more time on Bible study than math and physics. Profoundly changed our understanding of nature with his law of universal gravitation and his laws of motion; invented calculus; built the first ever reflecting telescope; showed sunlight is made of all the colors of the rainbow.

[Charles Townes](#) 1915 – 2015.

A member of the United Church of Christ. Prayed daily. Wrote books linking science and religion; believed religion more important than science. Invented the laser and maser. Established that the Milky Way has a supermassive black hole at its center.

[Mary Anning](#) 1799 – 1847.

A devoted Anglican, spent her spare time reading the Bible. Discovered the first complete specimen of a plesiosaur; deduced the diets of dinosaurs.

[Willard Gibbs](#) 1839 – 1903.

Member of the Congregational Church who attended services every week. Invented vector analysis and founded the sciences of modern statistical mechanics and chemical thermodynamics.

[John Dalton](#) 1766 – 1844.

A faithful Quaker who lived modestly. Dalton's Atomic Theory is the basis of chemistry; discovered Gay-Lussac's Law relating temperature, volume, and pressure of gases; discovered the law of partial gas pressures.

[Carl Friedrich Gauss](#) 1777 – 1855.

A Lutheran Protestant who believed science revealed the immortal human soul and that there is complete unity between science and God. Gauss revolutionized number theory and invented the method of least squares and the fast Fourier transform. His profound contributions to the physical sciences include Gauss's Law & Gauss's Law for Magnetism.

[Charles Barkla](#) 1877 – 1944.

A Methodist who believed science was part of his quest for God. Discovered that atoms have the same number of electrons as their atomic number and that X-rays emitted by excited atoms are 'fingerprints' for the atom.

[George Washington Carver](#) 1864 – 1943.

A Protestant Evangelist and Bible class leader whose faith in Jesus was the mechanism through which he carried out his scientific work. Improved the agricultural economy of the USA by promoting nitrogen providing peanuts as an alternative crop to cotton to prevent soil depletion.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

[Francis Collins](#) 1950 – present.

Atheist turned devout Christian. Invented positional cloning. Took part in discovery of the genes for cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, and neurofibromatosis. Directed National Human Genome Research Institute for 15 years.

[Ernest Walton](#) 1903 – 1995.

A devout Methodist, who said science was a way of knowing more about God. Winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics after he artificially split the atom and proved that $E = mc^2$.

[Florence Nightingale](#) 1820 – 1910.

An Anglican who believed God spoke to her, calling her to her work. Transformed nursing into a respected, highly trained profession; used statistics to analyze wider health outcomes; advocated sanitary reforms largely credited with adding 20 years to life expectancy between 1871 and 1935.

[J. J. Thomson](#) 1856 – 1940.

A practicing Anglican who prayed and read the Bible daily. Discovered the electron; invented one of the most powerful tools in analytical chemistry – the mass spectrometer; obtained the first evidence for isotopes of stable elements.

[Alessandro Volta](#) 1745 – 1827.

A Roman Catholic who declared that he had never wavered in his faith. Invented the electric battery; wrote the first electromotive series; isolated methane for the first time.

[Blaise Pascal](#) 1623 – 1662.

A Roman Catholic theologian. Pascal's wager justifies belief in God. Devised Pascal's triangle for the binomial coefficients and co-founded probability theory. Invented the hydraulic press and the mechanical calculator.

[William Thomson \(Lord Kelvin\)](#) 1824 – 1907.

An elder of the Free Church of Scotland. Codified the first two laws of thermodynamics, deduced the absolute zero of temperature is $-273.15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. On the Kelvin scale, absolute zero is found at 0 kelvin. Invented the signaling equipment used in the first transatlantic telegraph via an undersea cable.

[Charles Babbage](#) 1791 – 1871.

A Protestant devotee who devoted a chapter of his autobiography to a discussion of his faith. The father of the computer, invented the Analytical Engine, a Turing Complete computer in 1837 – the first general purpose computer.

[Werner Heisenberg](#) 1901 – 1976.

A Lutheran with deep Christian convictions. One of the primary creators of quantum mechanics. Formulated the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle.

[Albrecht von Haller](#) 1708 – 1777.

A Protestant, wrote religious texts and helped organize the construction of the Reformed Church in Göttingen. The father of modern physiology.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

[Nicolas Steno](#) 1638 – 1686.

Born a Lutheran, converted to Catholicism and became a bishop. Beatified in 1988, the third of four steps needed to be declared a saint. One of the founders of modern geology and stratigraphy.

[Humphry Davy](#) 1778 – 1829.

Said that God's design was revealed by chemical investigations. Discovered the electrical nature of chemical bonding. Used electricity to split several substances into their basic building blocks for the first time, discovering chlorine and iodine; produced the first ever samples of the elements: barium, boron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and strontium. Invented the safety lamp.

[Arthur Eddington](#) 1882 – 1944.

A Quaker, who believed the hand that made us is Divine. He was the first scientist to propose stars obtain their energy from nuclear fusion. Experimentally verified Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

[John Ambrose Fleming](#) 1849 – 1945.

A devout Christian who preached about the Resurrection and founded the creationist Evolution Protest Movement. Founded the electronic age with his invention of the vacuum tube (thermionic valve); devised the hand rules for electric motors and generators.

[Samuel Morse](#) 1791 – 1872.

A Calvinist with Unitarian sympathies who funded a lectureship considering the relation of the Bible to the Sciences. Took part in the invention of a single-wire telegraph and patented it. Developed the Morse code.

[John Eccles](#) 1903 – 1997.

Christian and sometimes practicing Roman Catholic. Believed in a Divine Providence operating over and above the materialistic happenings of biological evolution. Winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on the physiology of synapses.

Ministers such as Pastor Tom Brown who is Pastor Emeritus New Hope Christian Fellowship near Show Low, Arizona. Pastor Tom wrote many books for his congregation, many dealing with science. He is well versed on Scientific Ideas. I am sure there are many other such ministers throughout the world who are curious about scientific ideas.

These men and women proved that with faith much can be accomplished. They brought about the industrial revolution. Remember that Jesus said with the Faith the size of a mustard seed, mountains can be moved. Metaphorically these scientists did move mountains.

The Doc, 34 Great Scientists Who Were Committed Christians, *Famous Scientists – the Art of Genius*.: <https://www.famousscientists.org/great-scientists-christians/> retrieved 11/26/2023.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Love, Marriage, and Sex

The following is an excerpt Website BibleGateway.com about love, marriage, and sex from the Song of Songs book of the Bible. I copied it rather than summarized it.

The Song of Songs (or Canticle of Canticles) is an exquisite collection of love lyrics, arranged to tell a dramatic tale of mutual desire and courtship. It presents an inspired portrayal of ideal human love, a resounding affirmation of the goodness of human sexuality that is applicable to the sacredness and the depth of married union.

Although the poem is attributed to Solomon in the traditional title, the language and style of the work, among other considerations, suggest a time after the end of the Babylonian exile (538 B.C.) when an unknown poet collected extant love poems, perhaps composing new material, and arranged the whole into the masterpiece we have before us. Some scholars argue the possibility of female authorship for at least portions of the Song.

The structure of the Song is difficult to analyze; this translation regards it as a lyric dialogue, with dramatic movement and interest. In both form and content, sections of the Song bear great similarity to the secular love songs of ancient Egypt and the “Sacred Marriage” cult songs of Mesopotamia which celebrate the union between divine partners.

While the lovers in the Song are clearly human figures, both Jewish and Christian traditions across the centuries have adopted “allegorical” interpretations. The Song is seen as a beautiful picture of the ideal Israel, the chosen people whom the Lord leads by degrees to a greater understanding and closer union in the bond of perfect love. Such readings of the Song build on Israel’s covenant tradition. Isaiah (**Isaiah 5:1–7; 54:4–8; 62:5**), Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 2:2, 3, 32**), and Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 16; 23**) all characterize the covenant between the Lord and Israel as a marriage. Hosea the prophet sees the idolatry of Israel in the adultery of Gomer (**Hosea 1–3**). He also represents the Lord speaking to Israel’s heart (**Hosea 2:16**) and changing her into a new spiritual people, purified by the Babylonian captivity and betrothed anew to her divine Lover “in justice and uprightness, in love and mercy” (**Hosea 2:21**). Similar imagery has also been used frequently in Jewish mystical texts. The Song offers a welcome corrective to negative applications of the theological metaphor of the marriage/covenant in some prophetic texts. It frequently proclaims a joyous reciprocity between the lovers and highlights the active role of the

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

female partner, now a pure figure to be cherished rather than an adulterous woman to be punished and abused. See also **Isaiah 62:3–5**.

Christian tradition has followed Israel's example in using marriage as an image for the relationship with God. This image is found extensively in the New Testament (**Matthew 9:15; 25:1–13; John 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23–32; Revelations 19:7–9; 21:9–11**). Thus, the Song has been read as a sublime portrayal and praise of this mutual love of the Lord and his people. Christian writers have interpreted the Song in terms of the union between Christ and the Church and of the union between Christ and the individual soul, particularly in the writings of Origen and St. Bernard

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Notes on Freemasonry

Anything that I say about Freemasonry is about Free and Accepted Masons, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and many Prince Hall Masons. I do not know much about the Grand Orient or other organizations that tries to associate themselves with masons that are in many countries, many of which do not require a belief in a supreme being and who encourage women to Join; these organizations give Freemasonry a bad image. The Grand Orient had supported the 18th century Order of Illuminati that Masonic organization that did not support. I can understand when Christians associate these organizations with Freemasonry in general, they are opposed to it.

The following is written from my own knowledge of the knights and of the crusades and Freemasonry. Free and Accepted Masons, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Prince Hall Masons do not allow women to join because they want to insulate their members from marriage difficulties. Wives, daughters, mothers, granddaughters, Grandmothers, etcetera are encouraged to join appendant organizations that have their own leadership hierarchy such as the Order of the Eastern Star. Many appendant Masonic organizations have international leadership. Lodges of Freemasons, rather they be Free and Accepted Masons, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, or Prince Hall Masons have only State or Provincial leadership: there is no international leadership for Blue Lodge Masonry that manage the first three degrees of Freemasonry.

If any of you would like to argue with me about Freemasonry, please present me with your best arguments. We may even go so far as to argue about the penalties in the obligations. Imagine how Christians who would not accept the Roman Catholic Church or how Christians who would not accept Islam were treated. The leadership of both the Catholic Church and Islam had (or has questionable merit.) The Knights had to develop obligations that members would take to warn them of what would happen to them if they shared their beliefs with outsiders. It was not what the Knights would do to other knights if they told secrets, it was what outsiders would do to them. It was dangerous to share their more gnostic interpretation of the scriptures with Catholics, Islamists and anyone who did not agree with their perspectives. The obligations extended down to stone masons who were employed by the knights. These stone masons represent the beginnings of Freemasonry that still exists today.

The Knights Templars came from a Christian sect, called the Cathars in France who did not accept the Catholic Church. The knights' objective in going to the middle east was to search for the true

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

religion. They took and held Jerusalem for a hundred years while they excavated underneath Harod's Temple thinking it was in the same location as Solomon's Temple. The knights in the crusades had very good relations with the common people and those in universities. Knowledge in such areas as medicine and mathematics was sent back to Europe through such scholars as Roger Bacon. For example, the concept of the number zero changed western mathematics. The knowledge gained brought Europe out of the dark ages. The interactions of knights with common people in the middle east was not respected by the Catholic Church or the leadership of Islam. This eventually was one of the reasons that led to the downfall of the Knights Templars.

All my comments are about Free and Accepted Masons since that is what I am a member of. The comments will also apply to Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and many Prince Hall Masons. Freemasonry has deep roots not only with the Knights of the Crusades, but also in Christianity. Freemasonry advocate the doctrine of any denomination. Although this disturbs leaders in various denominations, other ministers embrace Freemasonry wholeheartedly, many of which are members and even leaders in lodges and grand lodges. Freemasonry accepts people of all religions who believe in a supreme being. The ritual is interlaced with Christian principles. People who do not know the Bible will not recognize the Christian foundation. Many consider Freemasonry to be non-Christian because it accepts men of many religions. I had become disillusioned by Christianity when I entered college. After college, my father encouraged me to join the Masonic Lodge. I was not receptive to joining until I realized both my carpool members were members of the lodge. I put in my petition and was accepted. The Degrees, especially the First Degree, were both shocking and educational. I was impressed by the brotherhood.

After participating in many initiations of new Masons, and as I studied the meanings behind the rituals, I begin to see the Christian roots. For example, when I realized who the Lion of the Tribe of Juda is and what the Strong Grip of the Lions Paw (reference the Lion of the Tribe of Judah in Revelations 5:5) in the Master Mason Degree, I realized that the Master of the Lodge representing King Solomon who raises candidates, can also represent Jesus to Christians. I believe that Freemasonry is a disguised way to teach Christian principles to men of all religions who have good character. I begin to understand Christianity. One of the great foundations of the Blue Lodge is friendship, as in Christianity. I begin going back to church. For this reason, I continue to support Freemasonry; I believe all men of good character should go through the degrees of not only the Blue Lodge, but also of the "higher degrees" such as in the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, the Shrine International, or other "higher degrees." They are called "higher degrees" because they come after

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

the Third Degree that is the highest degree a Mason can attain. Notice the difference between higher and highest.

The higher degrees have their own leadership, constitutions and philanthropies, They are independent of Blue Lodges, but they limit their membership to members of Lodges they recognize. These higher degrees of Freemasonry promote medical research through philanthropies they operate. The Scottish Rite and Shrine International also operate special function hospitals such as burn units, crippled Childrens hospitals, and others types.

The Forget-Me-Not

In this blog, we explore the history behind the forget-me-not, a symbol used in Freemasonry to teach a valuable and important lesson: the dedication and courage it takes to hold to Masonic principles, even in the face of grave danger.

From its beginning in 1933, Nazi Germany placed severe legal, political, and civic restrictions against institutions it saw as hostile to or inconsistent with its aims and ideals. Along with Jews, queers, those with mental and physical handicaps, Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Freemasons were likewise targeted for criminal prosecution and exclusion from society. The Enabling Act of 1933 dissolved all Masonic lodges in the Third Reich, confiscating all property and banning members from joining the Nazi Party. A year after, the Ministry of Defense ruled that soldiers, officers, and civilian personnel could not be members of Masonic organizations, and Hitler often linked antisemitism to conspiracy theories about Freemasonry. Some Freemasons were political prisoners in concentration camps and were forced to wear an inverted red triangle badge. The SS dedicated two separate offices towards pursuing Masonic organizations and Freemasons; this would continue into the war and into countries under German control such as France and Italy.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has a great article about Freemasons in Germany and how they adopted the forget-me-not as follows (I copied the text since I could not tell the story better myself, I also liked the pictures. Sharing of information is encouraged among Masons.)

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023



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The most popular charges against Freemasonry by the Nazis were conspiratorial and antisemitic; they linked Masonic organizations to Communism, the international press, and the Jewish population. Nazis spread this information through Party newspapers, literature, in speeches, and through propaganda museum exhibits; for example, mock lodge displays were set up with skeletons in Masonic regalia alongside Jewish symbols.



Skeletons dressed in traditional Masonic regalia are posed in an anti-Masonic exhibit fueling Nazi propaganda.

Exhibit; Eastern Illinois University

In 1934, members of one of Germany's pre-war Grand Lodges, Grand Lodge of the Sun, began wearing the blue forget-me-not instead of the square and compasses on their lapels as a secret mark of identity. The "forget-me-not" is the informal name for the Myosotis flower, known for being small and having blue or purple petals. Throughout this whole era, these flowers appeared on lapels across cities and even concentration camps, worn by brothers whose love for the craft remained strong, even though the worst times. In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened, a pin in the shape of a forget-me-not was adopted as an emblem of that first convention by those who survived the Nazi era. It then was also adopted as an official Masonic emblem honoring those brothers who dared to wear the flower openly, and recognizes the contributions of Masonic educators.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023



Traditional Masonic Forget-Me-Not pin with five blue petals surrounding a yellow center and silver accents.

Ultimately, Adolf Hitler was unsuccessful in eradicating Freemasonry in Germany and beyond. While temples were destroyed, property confiscated and burned, and Masons imprisoned and murdered, the mysteries of Freemasonry and the core principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth survived unimpaired in our brothers' hearts. Masonic organizations promptly rebuilt following the Nazi era, and once again to thrive in the face of adversity and hardship.

I know I can find many articles and books about persecution of all other places around the world, I like this story. I hope the information I shared with you will help you to relate to other events in history. The information I shared with you on Freemasonry, you could find on the internet. Although Masons cannot reveal their ritual, they are encouraged to share the knowledge they gain by studying for degrees and orders such as stories from the Bible or from Masonic Legends. The people who really learn during the initiations of candidates are not the candidates, the participants putting on the initiation learn the most.

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

Background

The Christian World View is a topic that we discussed at the New Hope Faith Fellowship Church in Linden, Arizona. We gave the topic some consideration at a few adult Sunday School classes. We had much difficulty finding a direction to pursue the topic. I sent Pastor Tom a couple of articles I had previously written that I believed were pieces of the puzzle. Three articles, I had previously written, are listed in the references. He asked me to investigate the Christian World View. This turned out to be a complex subject, I believe that Christians are so dis-unified within their various denominations that a unified Christian Worldview is not possible.

This is a difficult paper to write. There are a couple of major perspectives. One is that with proper training and ethical instruction people can lead their own lives and even influence the directions of governments. The other perspective is that of the secular concepts of social entitlement where government must direct people while excluding principles taught in the Bible. Many teachings of the Bible, and Jesus, point to the idea that individuals, with proper training may lead their own lives; the most important guides are that we should love one another and the Golden Rule. We should also have faith.

The primary purpose of the report is to delve into myself to help me determine what I believe. I am not trying to impress anyone. I am digging up what I know about the Bible and what I remember from my education in engineering and in business schools. With the aid of research for this paper, much of it is coming together.

I am also a Freemason, a member of White River Lodge #62, Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona; I have been involved in it for almost 50 years. It has been a great source of Biblical education for me over the years. I am proficient in all three degrees of the Blue Lodge, which is the first three degrees of Freemasonry. I served as a District Grand Lecturer for the Grand Lodge of Arizona for a few years, representing various lodges in Central Eastern Arizona. I am also proficient in many of the ten degrees of the York Rite of Freemasonry. In the York Rite, I served as Grand Master Cryptic Masons for the state of Arizona in 2002, and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Arizona in 2003.

As a Mason, I am not allowed to criticize religions. We are taught to respect all religions that believe in a supreme being. Like Christianity, Hinduism and other eastern religions are also philosophies on how you should lead your lives. As a Christian, I can see how Christians are being

The Christian World View

Frank Edens

November 27, 2023

led astray. This paper is written as a Christian and not as a Mason. But I must admit there is a lot of Masonic influence in what I have written – it cannot be avoided because of who I am.

I can assure you that what many anti-masonic groups say about Freemasonry is freakish and unreasonable. Much of what is said was also said about the Knight Templars while the King of France, Phillip the Fair, was trying to unlawfully take their wealth. These critics of Freemasonry do not appear to be very creative to me. They have just repeated the same old stuff century after century.